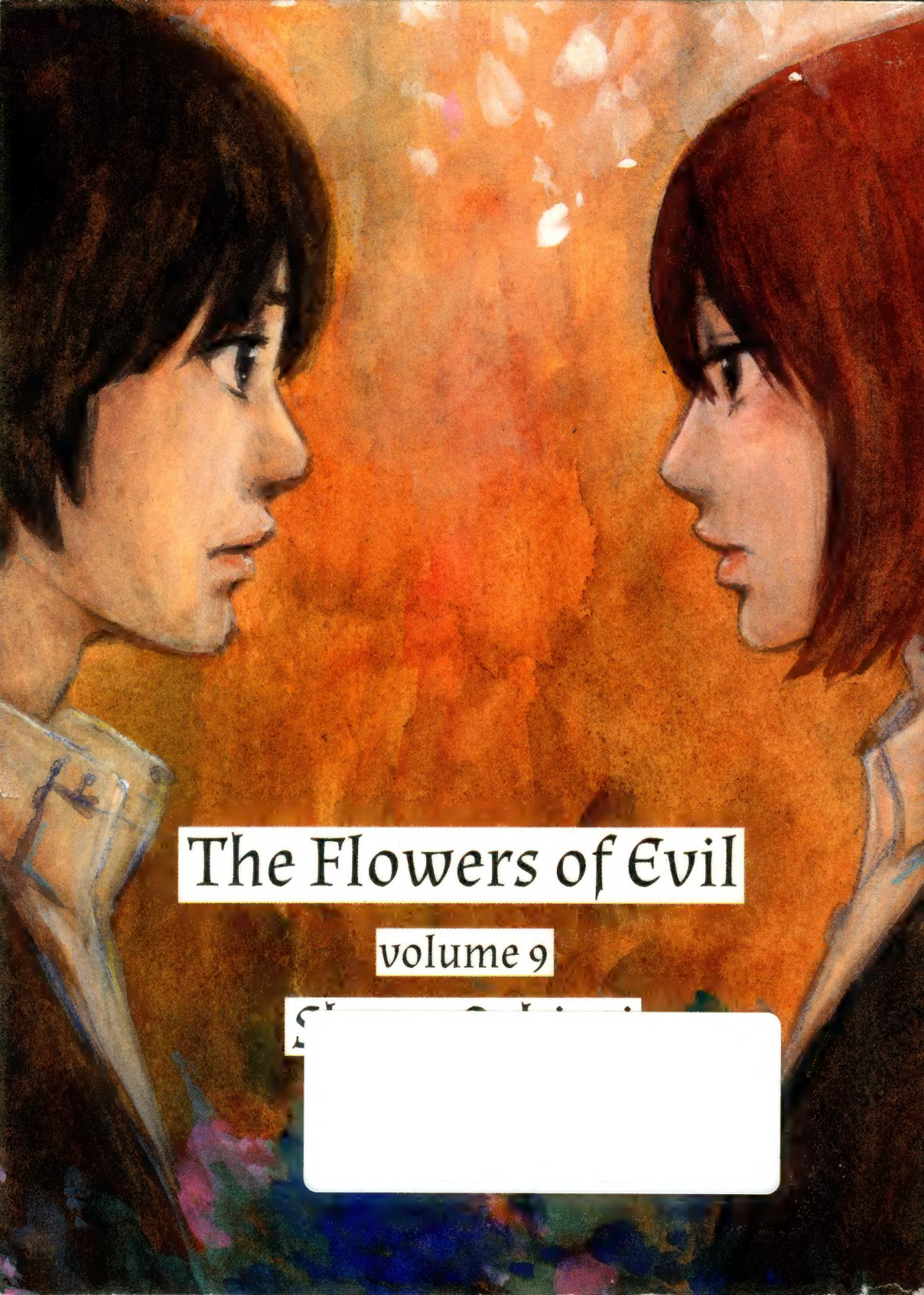
The Flowers of Evil
volume 9

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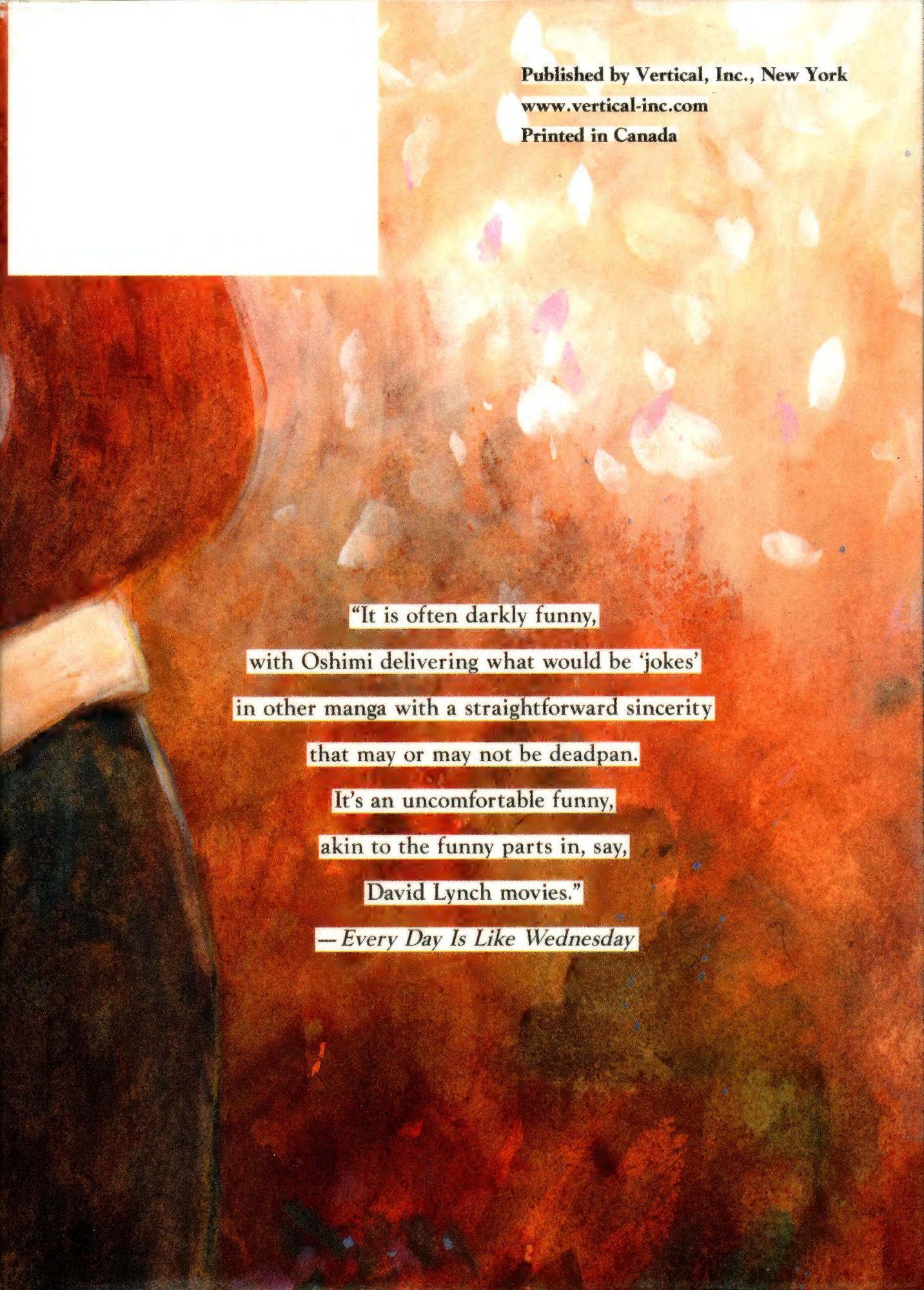

"It is often darkly funny,
with Oshimi delivering what would be 'jokes'
in other manga with a straightforward sincerity
that may or may not be deadpan.
It's an uncomfortable funny,
akin to the funny parts in, say,
David Lynch movies."
—*Every Day Is Like Wednesday*

The Flowers of Evil

Volume 9

Shuzo Oshimi

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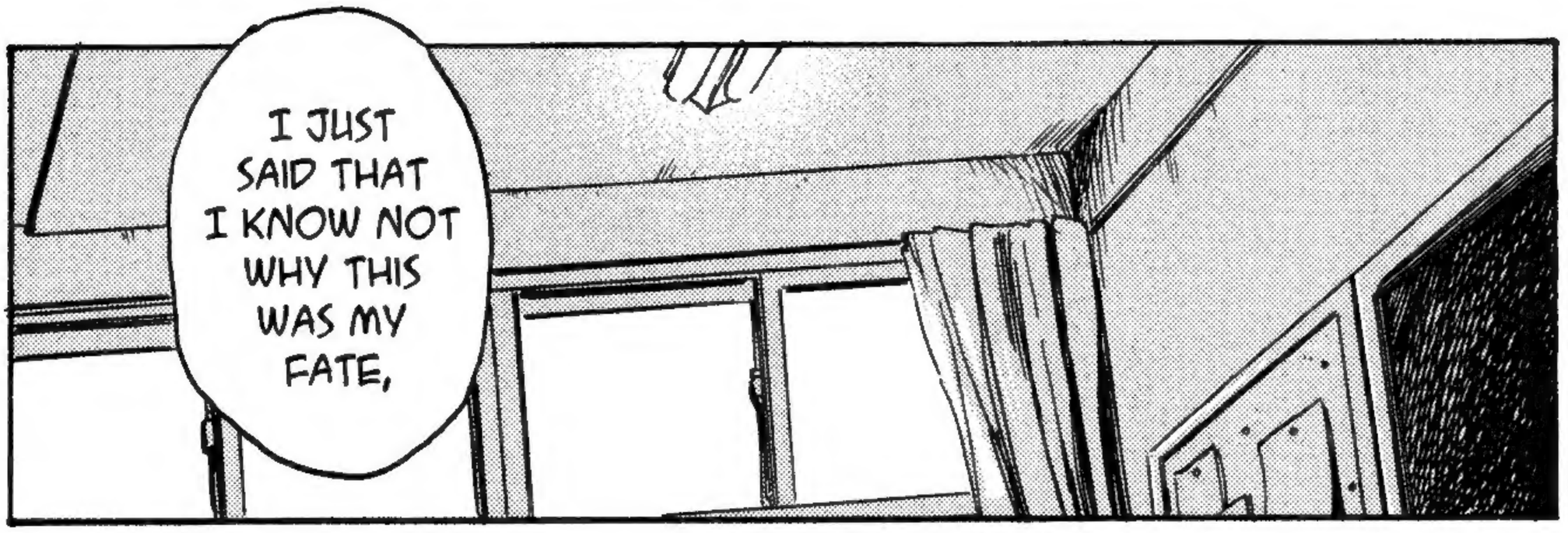
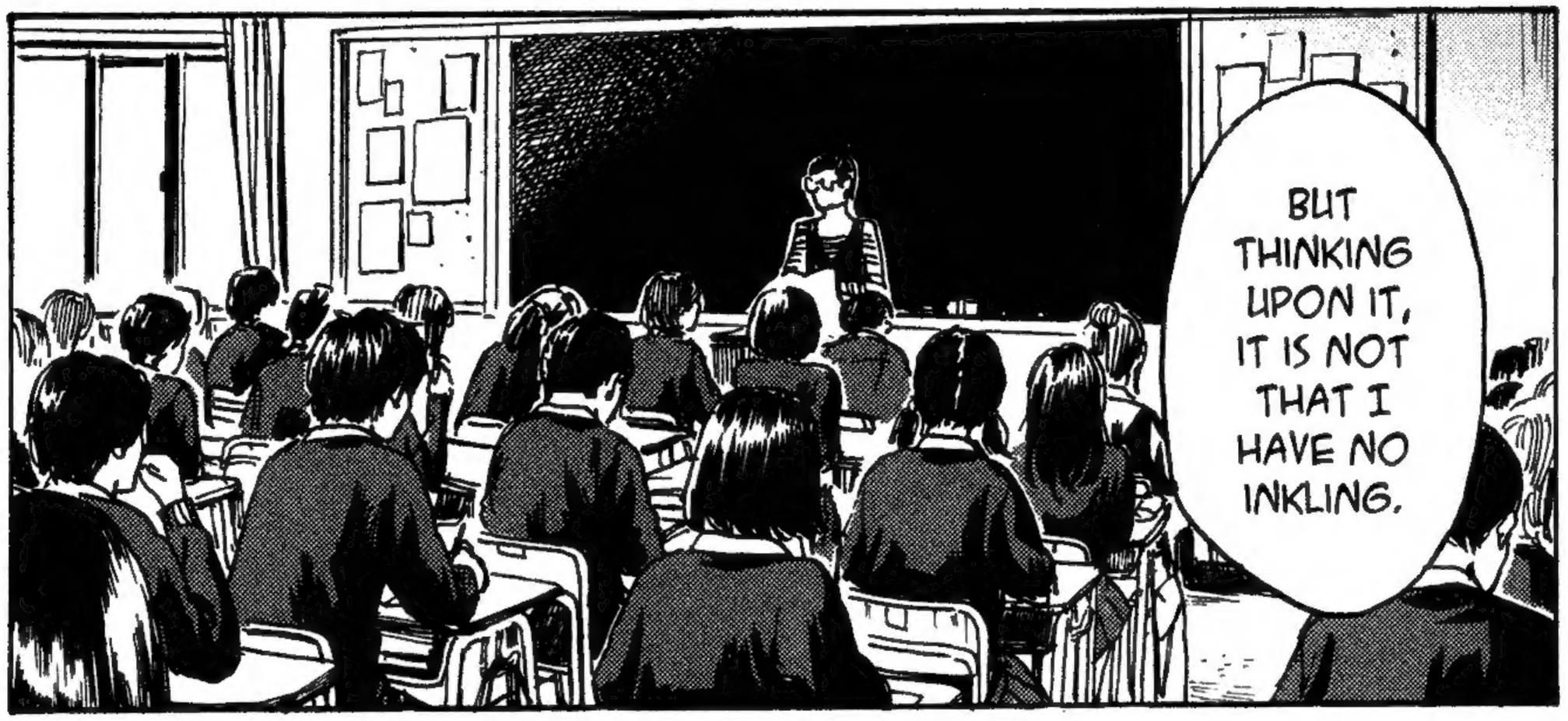
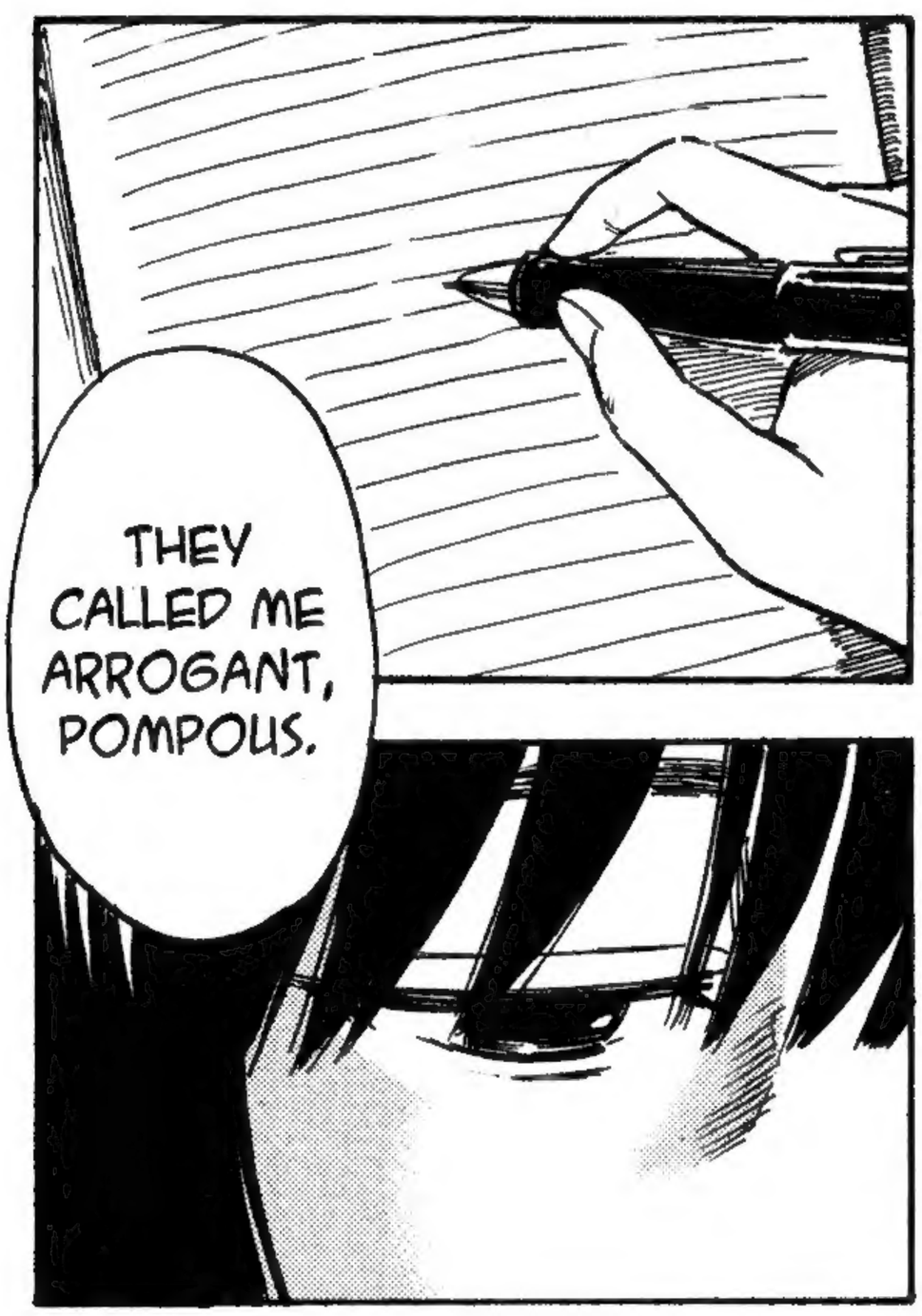
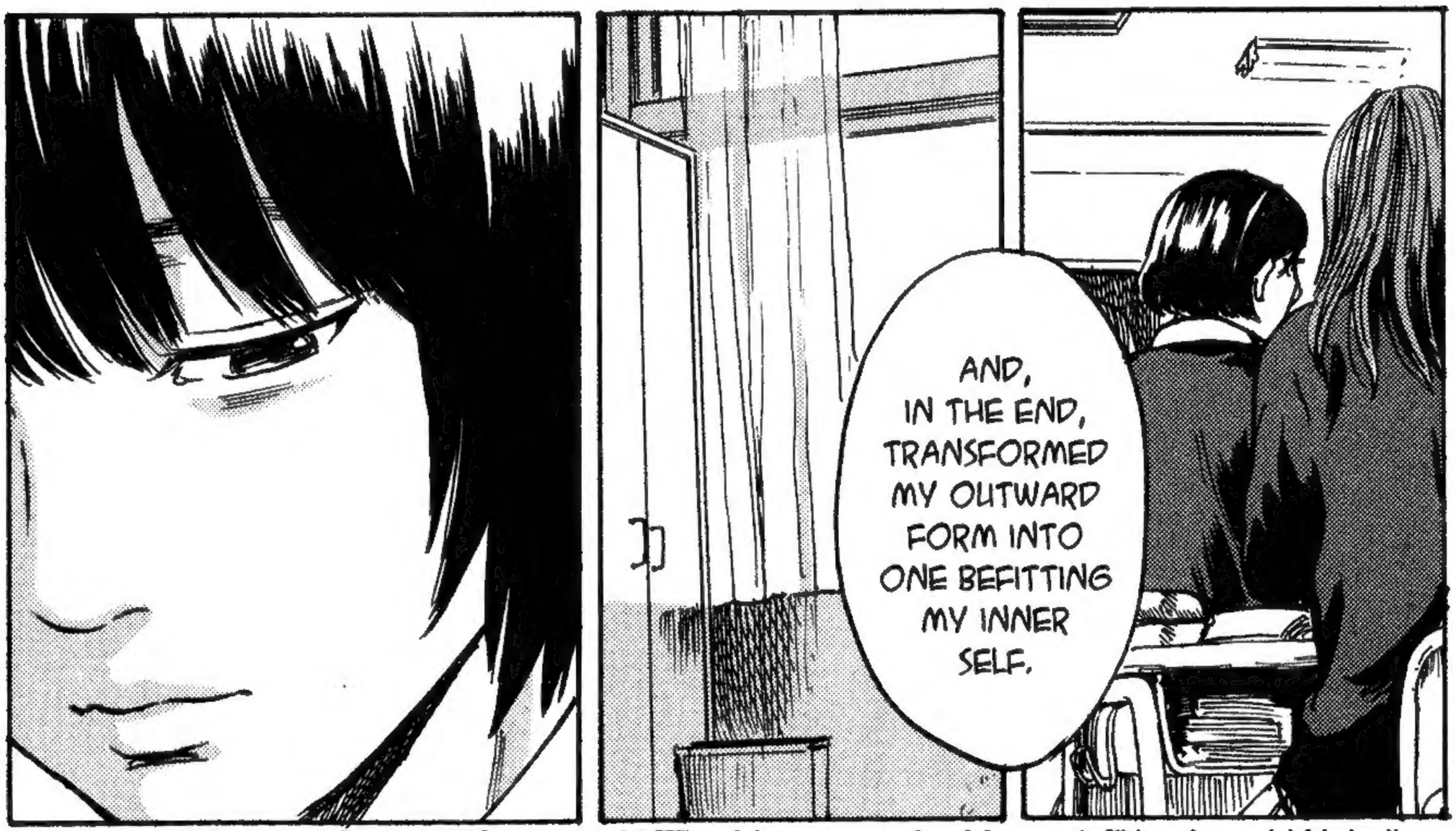
Chapter 43: That Was Your Soul


I JUST SAID THAT I KNOW NOT WHY THIS WAS MY FATE,


BUT THINKING UPON IT, IT IS NOT THAT I HAVE NO INKLING.


THEY CALLED ME ARROGANT, POMPOUS.

WHEN I WAS A HUMAN, I DID MY BEST TO AVOID MINGLING WITH OTHERS.



* Source: "Sangetsuki [The Moon over the Mountain]" by Atsushi Nakajima

SHIT-
BUG.

!

?

DING
DONG
DING
DONG
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
DAMN, I'M STARV-ING!
LET'S GO GET SOME BREAD.
LET'S JUST GO.
HURRY, THEY'LL RUN OUT OF CHOCO ROLLS.
TAKING A DUMP MAYBE ?
HUH. WHERE'S KASUGA ?

CHIRRP

ピチュ

ピピ

TWEET

WHEW
...

I KNOW, RIGHT?

HA HA HA HA

!

NO WAY, FOR REALS?

BWA HA HA

YEAH, I HEARD!

ABOUT TOKIWA, I MEAN.

OH, AND, DID YOU HEAR?

I HEARD SHE WAS COVERING FOR KASUGA.

WHAT? WHY?

YEAH!

YOU MEAN WHERE SHE BLEW UP AT KOJI, YEAH?

IT'S CRAZY, ISN'T IT?

AND SHE TOLD KOJI THAT HE WAS TOTALLY BORING OR SOMETHING!

ALL I KNOW IS SHE SUDDENLY BLEW UP.

IT'S A MYS-TERY.

KASUGA? THAT KASUGA?

THAT SHAGGY GUY? WHY?!

WHAT?!

DUNNO. BUT HIROKI WAS SAYING THEY MIGHT.

HUH, THINK THEY BROKE UP?

WHO KNOWS. I GUESS THINGS WEREN'T GOING GREAT WITH KOJI.

I WONDER WHAT'S UP WITH TOKIWA.

YOU BITCH, YOU!

AHA HA

WHOAH

MM, KOJI !

REALLY? NOW'S THE CHANCE THEN!

STUP

WELL, ANYWAY, LET'S GO.

!

YUP.

UH ...

NO WAY.

WHA ?

KA- SUGA.

EW, CREEPY.

GROSS! SCARY!

SERIOUSLY? WERE YOU LISTENING TO US?

HEY, HEY,

SO WHAT HAPPENED, KASUGA?

I WASN'T ...

UM, NO.

YOU WENT TO THEIR HANGOUT, DIDN'T YOU?

TELL US WHY!

WHAT'S YOUR DEAL WITH TOKIWA?

SO WHY?!

ONLY COOL PEOPLE GET TO GO THERE.

WHY WHAT?

TOKI-
WA.

AH.

EVERY-
THING
OKAY WITH
YOU AND
KOJI?

TELL
US!

YEAH,
YEAH
!

WE'RE
JUST
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU,
TOKIWA
!

DON'T
WORRY.

UM
...

KOJI AND I...

MADE UP AL-READY.

THANKS.

WE WERE SO WORRIED ...

OH, REALLY? GOOD TO KNOW!

CON-GRATS!

WE SHOULD HANG OUT SOON!

YEAH.

SO, WE'RE GOING NOW.

LATER!

SYNONYM

PSYCHOPATH

TWEET

CHIRRP

ON SATUR-DAY.

WHY DIDN'T YOU PICK UP YOUR PHONE?

I'M SORRY!

I WAS KINDA SWAMPED WITH...

UH, AH...

UM.

...

YOU THINK?

WELL, WHAT-EVER.

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOUR EYES LOOK DEAD. DEADER THAN USUAL.

WELL ...

SO HOW'S THE NOVEL COMING?

OH ...

WHEN I FINALLY TRIED TO WRITE, IT WAS LIKE...

NOT AS GOOD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

IT'S SORTA... NOT GOING SO WELL.

THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU.

MAN... MAYBE I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT AFTER ALL.

I'M REALLY UPSET AT MY OWN LACK OF WRITING SKILLS.

YOU'LL DO FINE. I'M SURE OF IT!

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

ABSO-LUTE-LY!

IT IS GOOD ...

SO...

KASUGA ...

mm.

THANKS.

HE SAID HE WANTS TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.

MY BOY-FRIEND ...

KOJI, HE—

HE REALLY DOES SEEM TO FEEL BAD.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, HE SAID YOU SHOULD COME TO THE CAFE WHERE WE WORK.

CHIRP チュピ

CHIRP チュピ

I WAS JUST ASKED TO TELL YOU.

IT'S FINE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

BUT... I BET YOU DON'T WANT TO.

I'LL COME.

NO.

...I DON'T MIND.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

HUH. REALLY ?

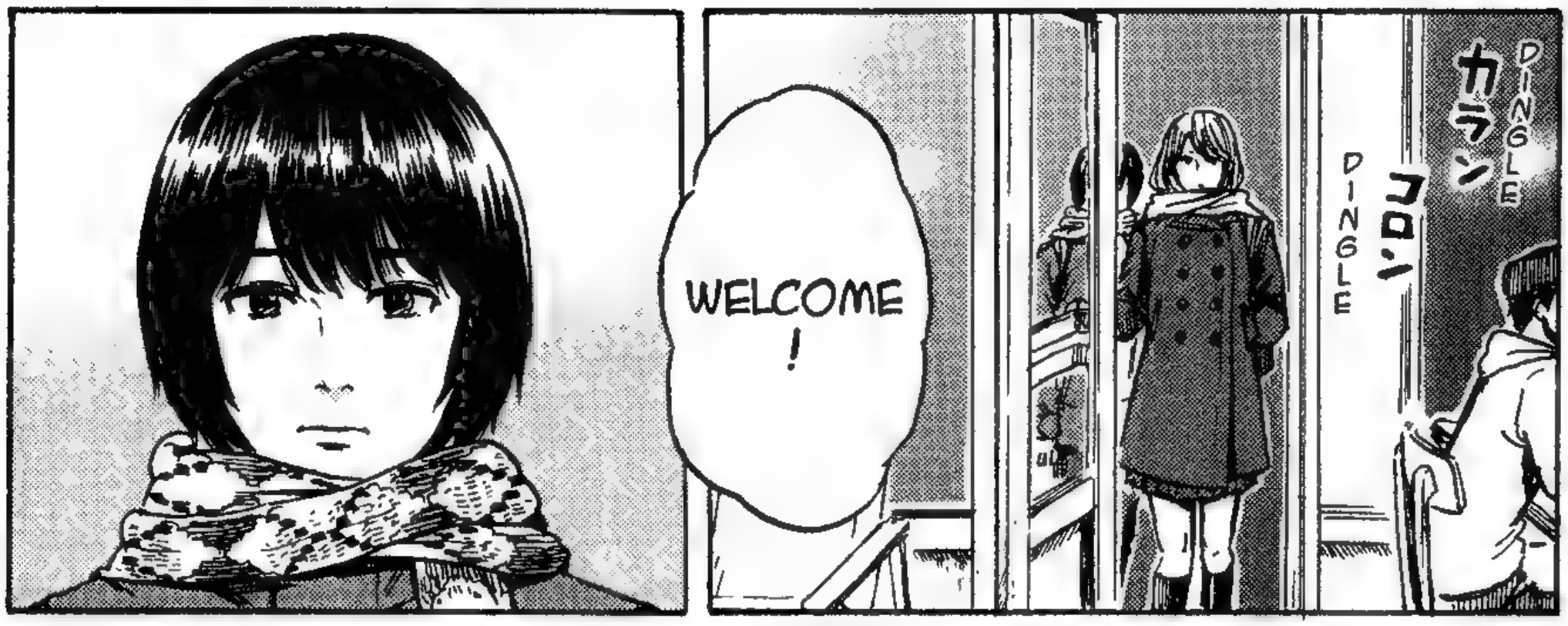
IF I JUST KEPT RUNNING AWAY LIKE THAT,

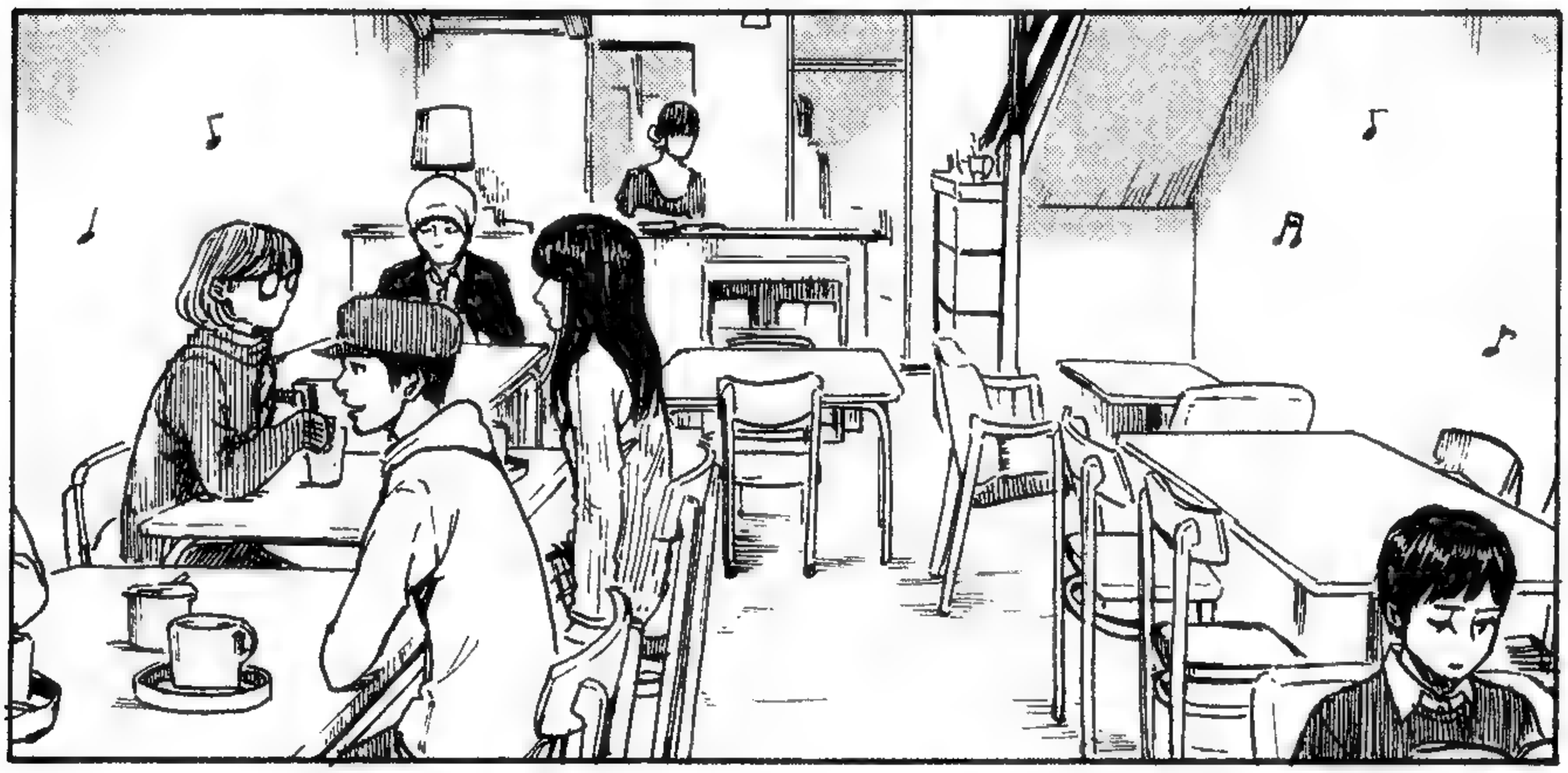
NOTHING WOULD EVER CHANGE.

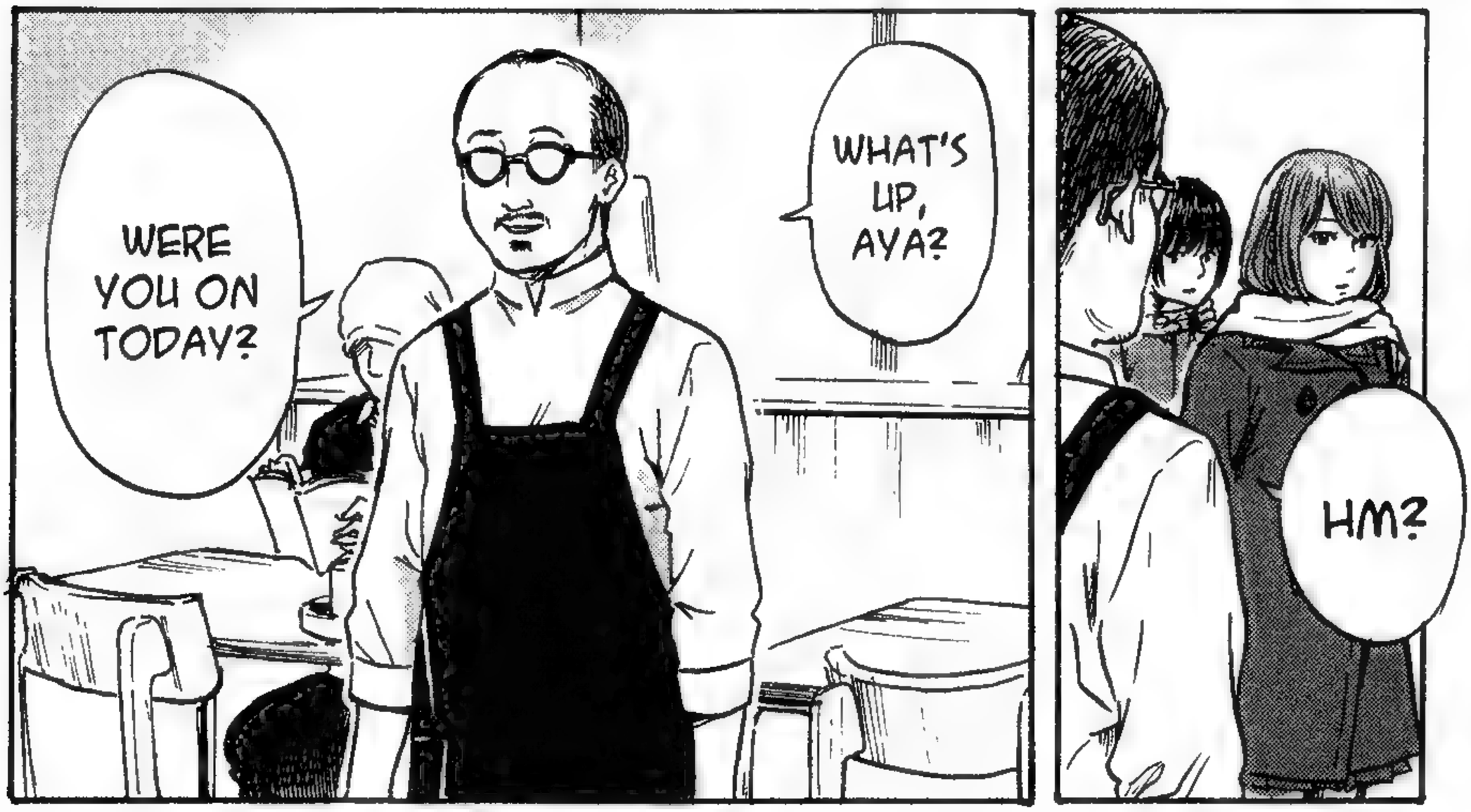
I DID CAUSE YOU GUYS TROUBLE MYSELF ...

AND

OKAY.


WELCOME !
カラン
DINGLE
コロ
DINGLE




WERE YOU ON TODAY?
WHAT'S UP, AYA?
HM?

AH. THAT'S FINE.

ENJOY YOUR-SELF.

OH, HI.

NO, I JUST CAME BY TO HANG OUT.

AND SORRY FOR CALLING IN THE OTHER DAY.

I'LL HAVE THAT RIGHT OUT FOR YOU!

SO THAT'S A HOT CAFE AU LAIT

AND A HOT CHOCO-LATE?

AH

UH ...

SURE ...

MY BAD... THANKS FOR COMING!

KASUGA!

IT'S ON ME.

OH, AND ORDER WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

OKAY.

I'LL BE ON BREAK IN A SEC, SO JUST WAIT.

SORRY, AYA.

UH... THE SAME, THEN.

THEN I WANT A BROWN SUGAR LATTE.

REALLY?

AND JUST HANG ON A SEC!

I'LL HAVE THAT RIGHT UP!

カランコロン

DINGLE DINGLE

WELCOME!

HEY, AYA!

WANT TO WORK TODAY AFTER ALL?

I'M A CUS-TOMER ...

UH-OH ...

AH HA HA

SORRY, BOSS.

FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE TO COME!

BUT SERIOUSLY, THANKS!

IT'S FINE.

NO ...

I'M SOR-RY.

ABOUT WHAT HAP-PENED ...

NO... I'M SORRY, TOO.

I FELT BAD FOR CAUSING YOU GUYS TROUBLE...

IF ANYTHING, I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.

NO, NOT AT ALL!

AT THAT RATE,

I'D HAVE STAYED CLUELESS, AND AYA WOULD'VE GOTTEN SICK OF ME.

THANKS TO YOU, I REALIZED HOW

I'VE TENDED TO JUST THINK OF MYSELF,

NOT ALWAYS MINDING AYA'S FEELINGS ...

HA HA... SORRY.

GETTING CARRIED AWAY, SMILING ALL THE WHILE...

JUST TRYING NOT TO SPOIL THE MOOD!

YEAH, REALLY!

YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING ALONG WITH WHAT-EVER.

I PROMISE.

I'M GONNA CHANGE, THOUGH.

THERE YOU GO, GETTING CARRIED AWAY AGAIN.

NORMAL COUPLES WOULD'VE TOTALLY SPLIT UP AFTER THAT!

I MEAN, I REALIZED I REALLY LOVE YOU, AYA.

FORGIVE ME?

WILL YOU

HA HA

ANY-WAY, I'M SORRY.

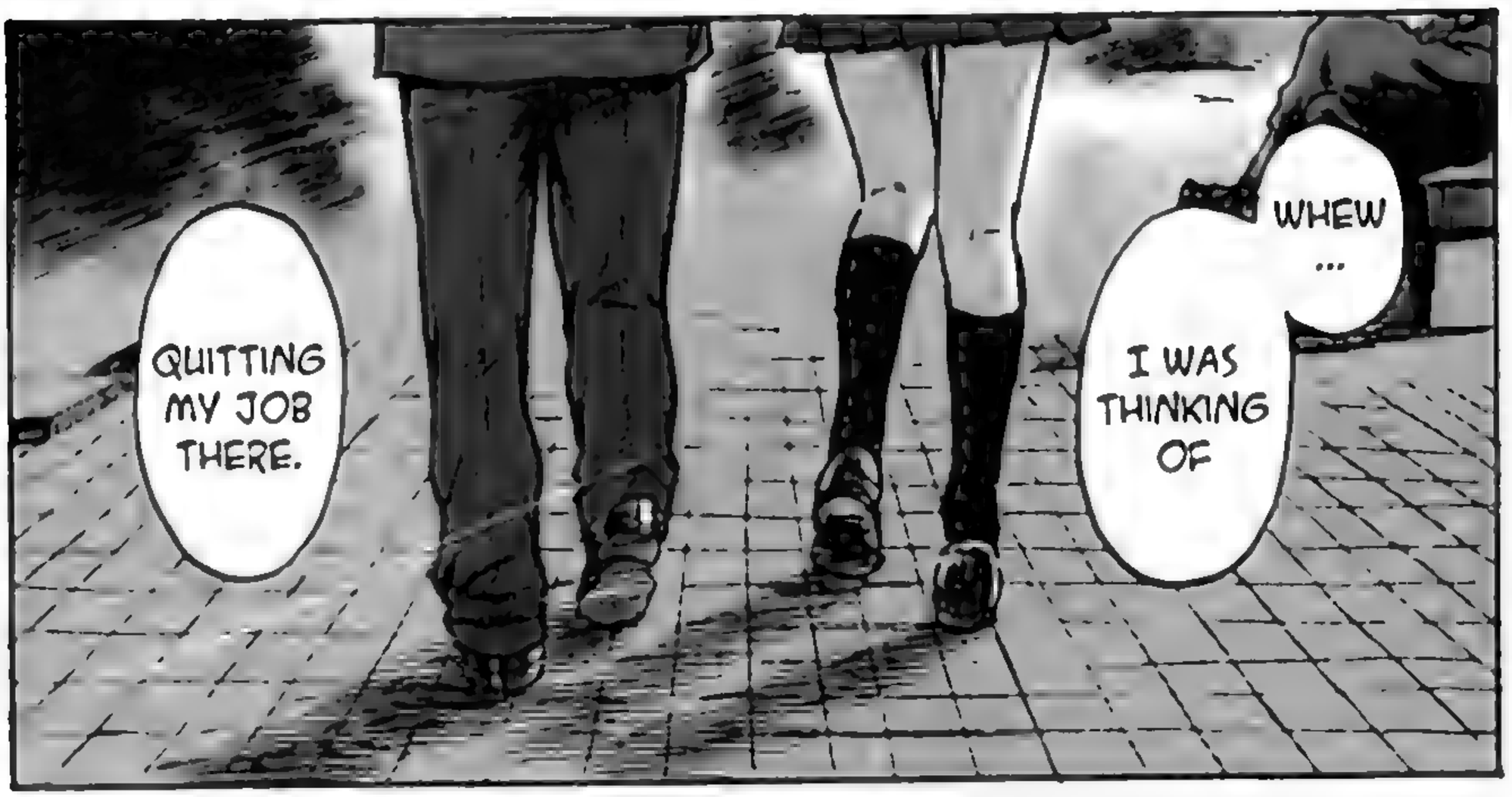
...

SURE.

ARCHE

IT'S OKAY.

THANKS FOR DOING THAT.
KASU-GA.


QUITTING MY JOB THERE.
I WAS THINKING OF
WHEW ...

HM?

WHY?

HEY.

DO YOU THINK I'M A FOOL?

I DON'T KNOW.

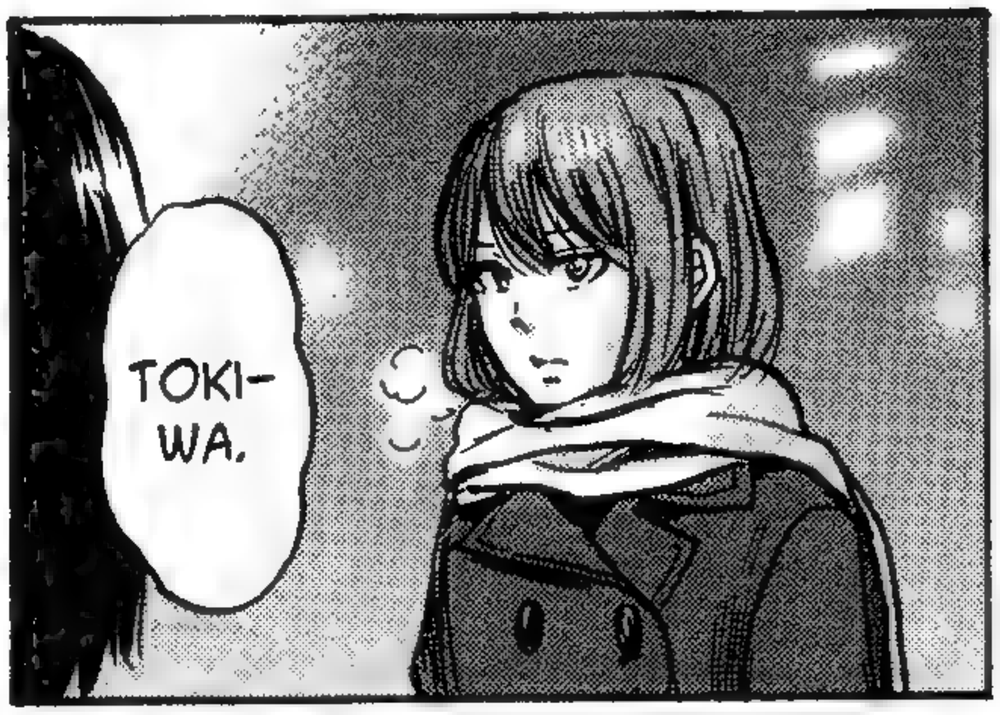
OH...

YOU'RE LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON COMPARED TO LAST WEEK.

SO, KASUGA.

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ?

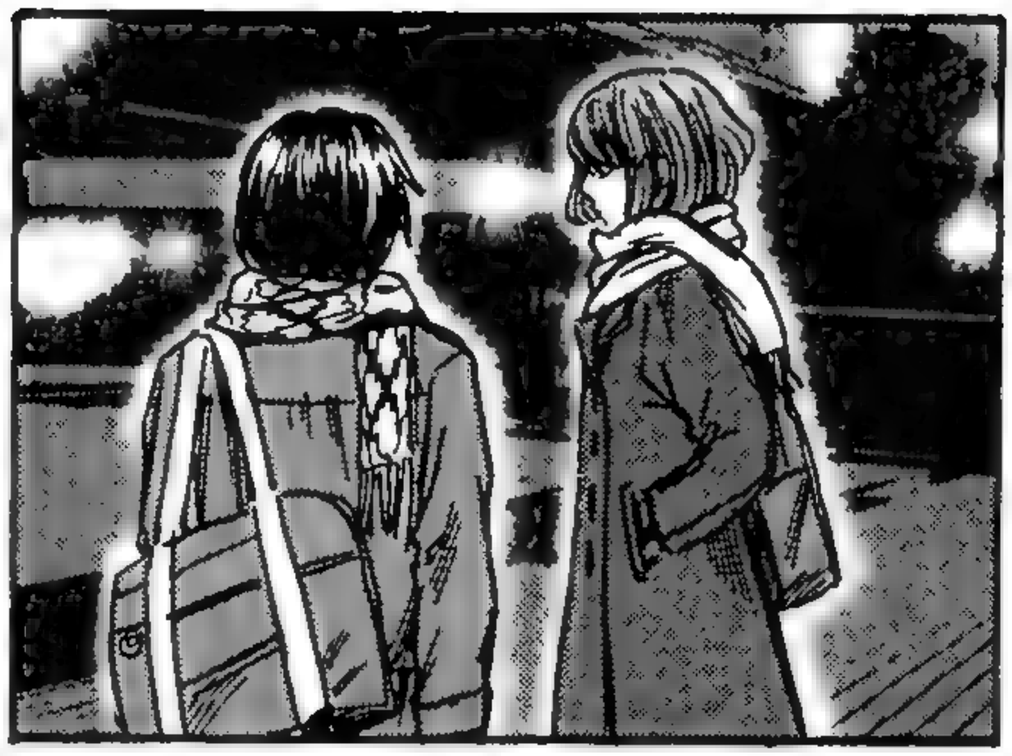
I...

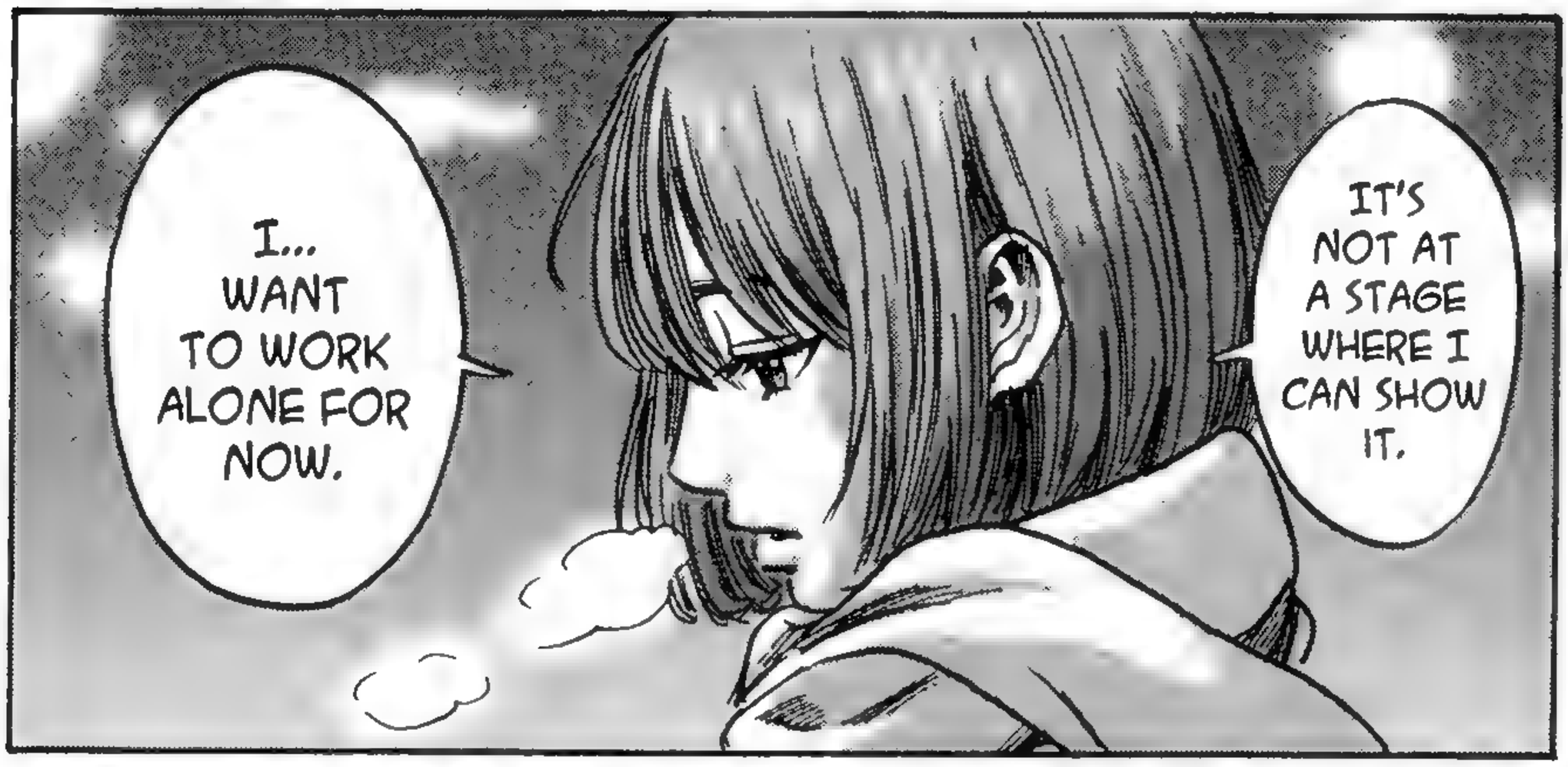

TOKI-
WA.

YOU'VE GOTTA FINISH THAT NOVEL.
TOKIWA.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP ...
I CAN GIVE YOU ADVICE... I MEAN, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE WRITTEN SO FAR.

NO, IT'S OKAY.




I... WANT TO WORK ALONE FOR NOW.
IT'S NOT AT A STAGE WHERE I CAN SHOW IT.

I SEE.
GOT IT... GOOD LUCK.

SEE YOU LATER.
OKAY, THEN ...

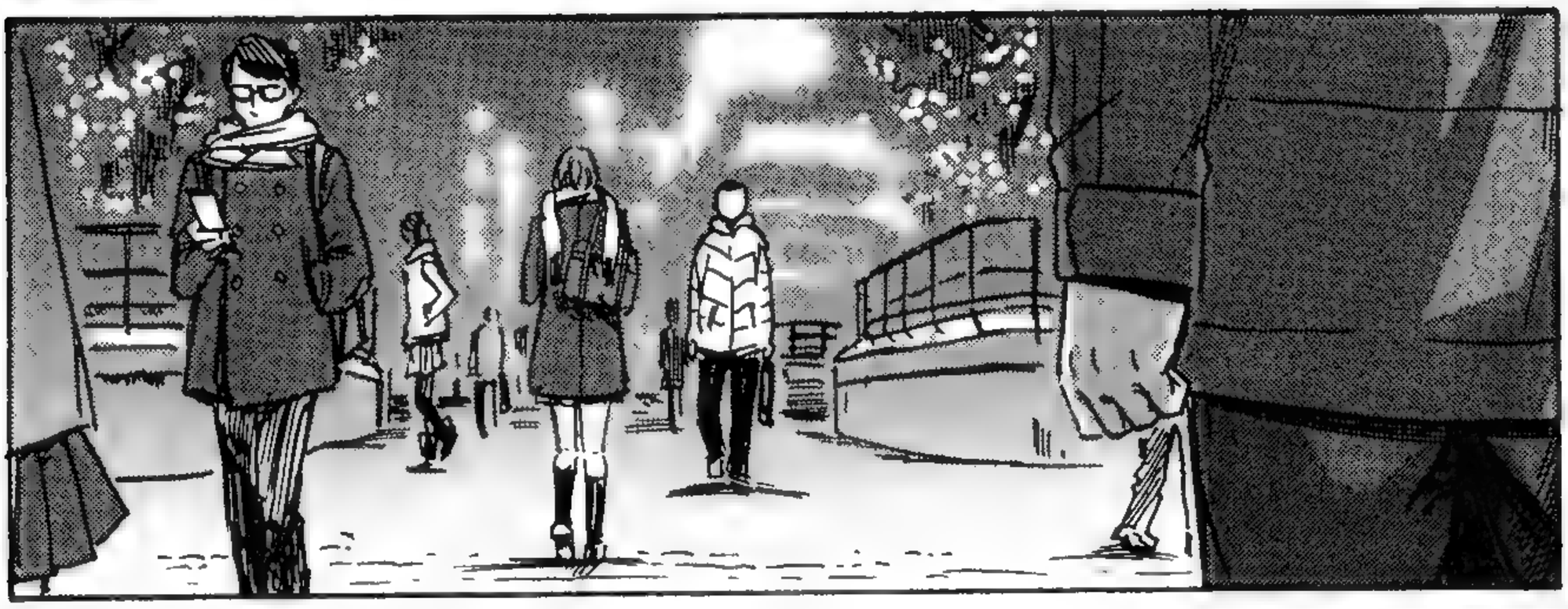
BYE.

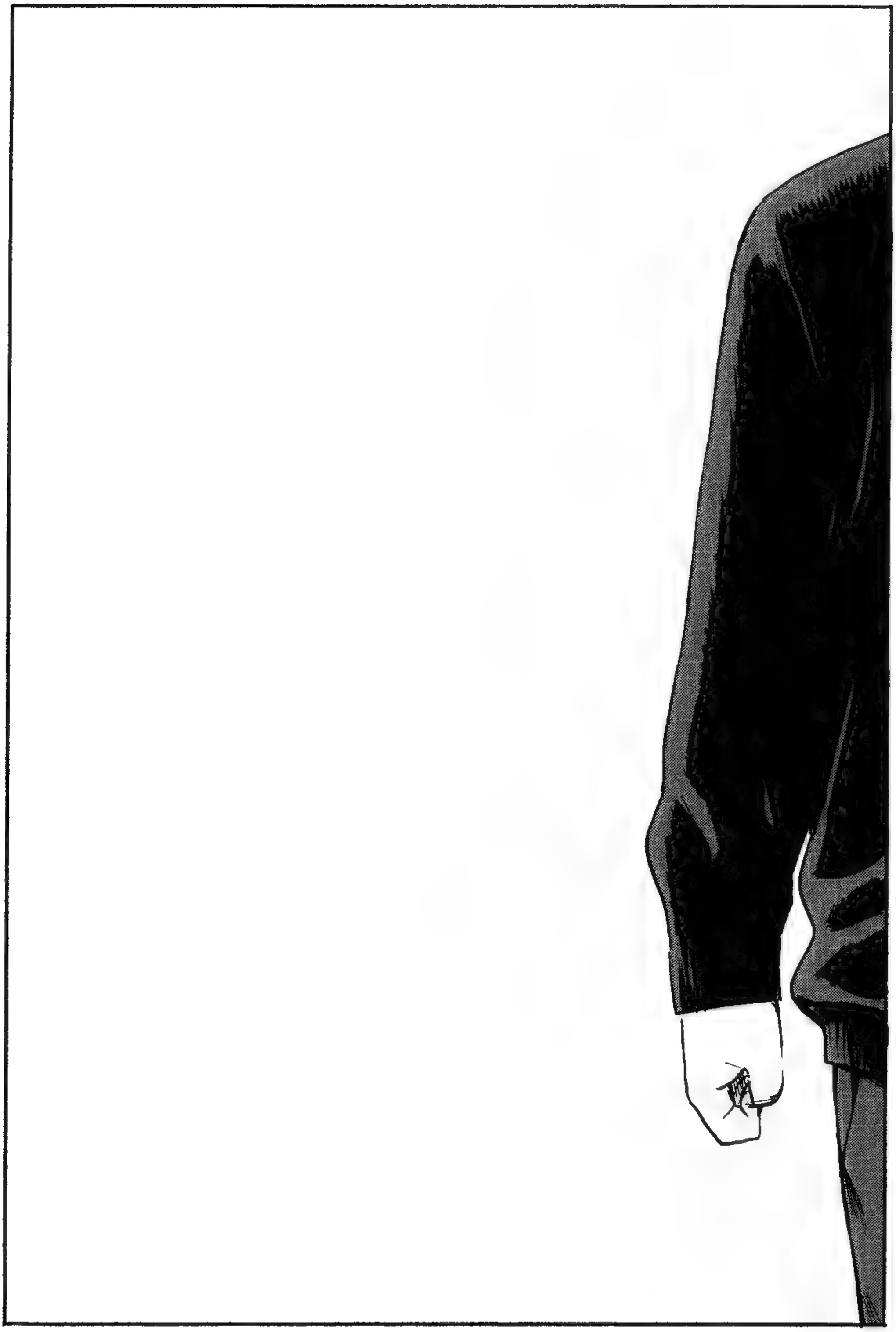
SEE YOU.
YUP.

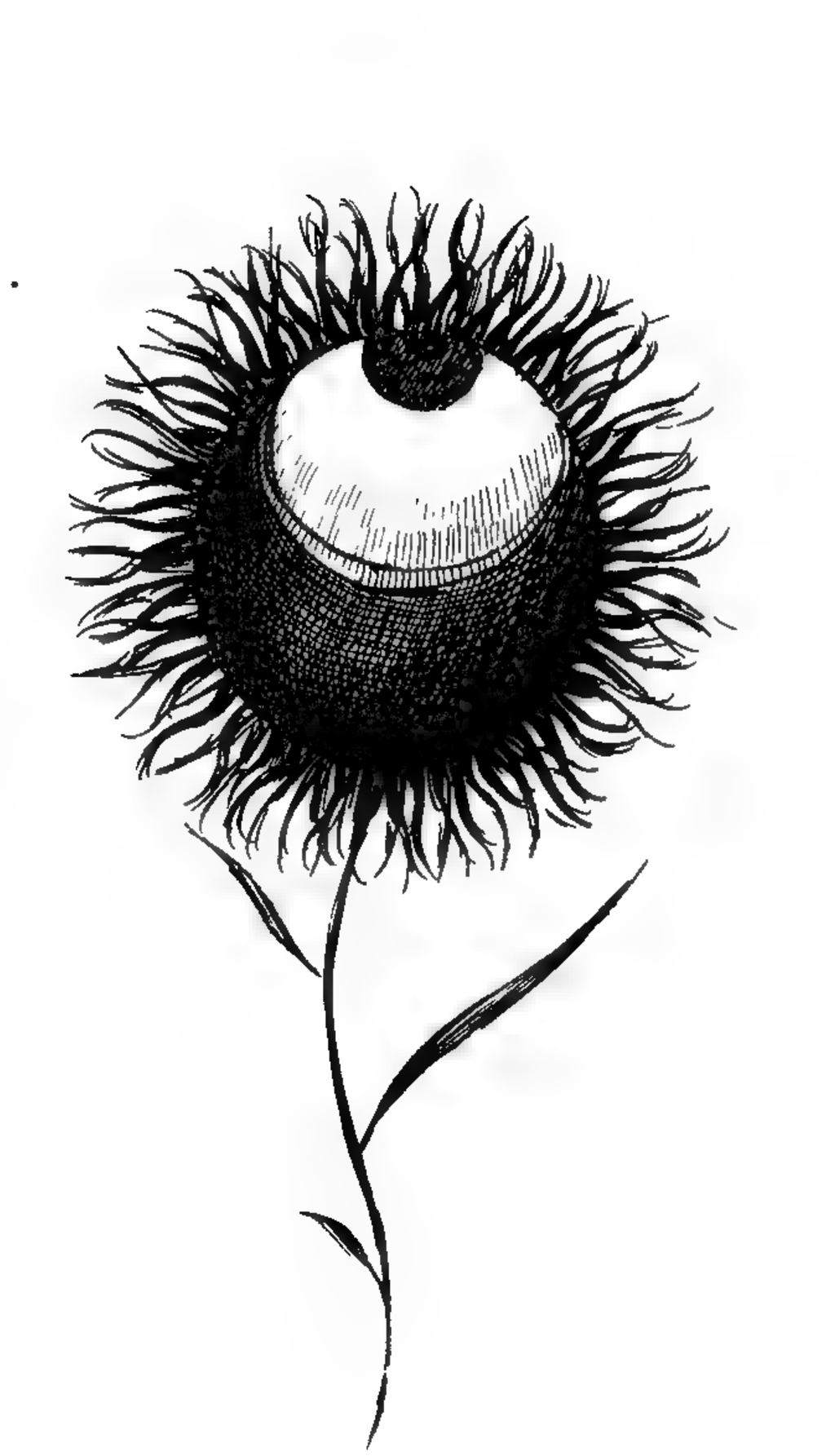
TOKIWA
!

WHAT
?

UH
...
NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTH-ING.







Chapter 44: What My Sinful Heart Seeks

Dec. 24

CLAMOR

WHAT'RE YOU DOING TODAY?

HUH, EVERY-BODY IS?

YEAH, NOZOMI, YOU SHOULD COME TOO!

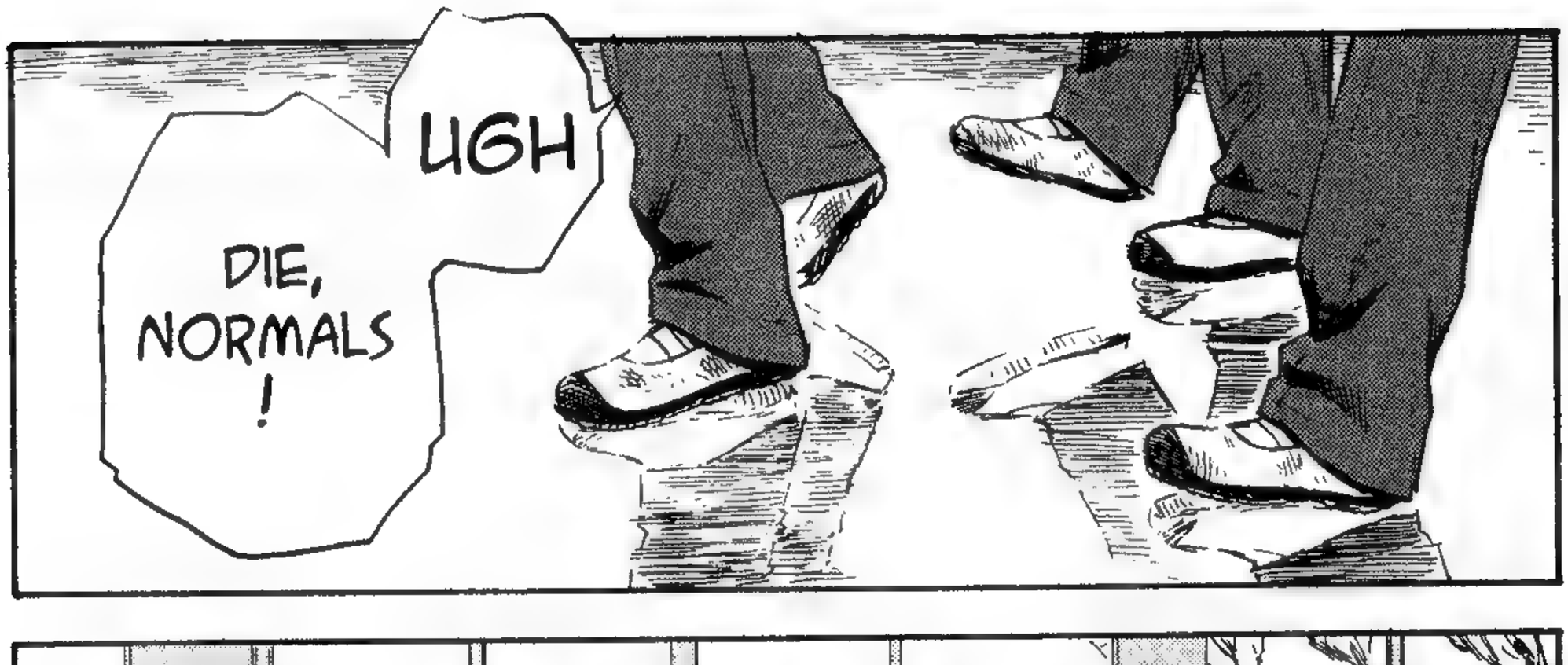
I SOOO ENVY YOU!

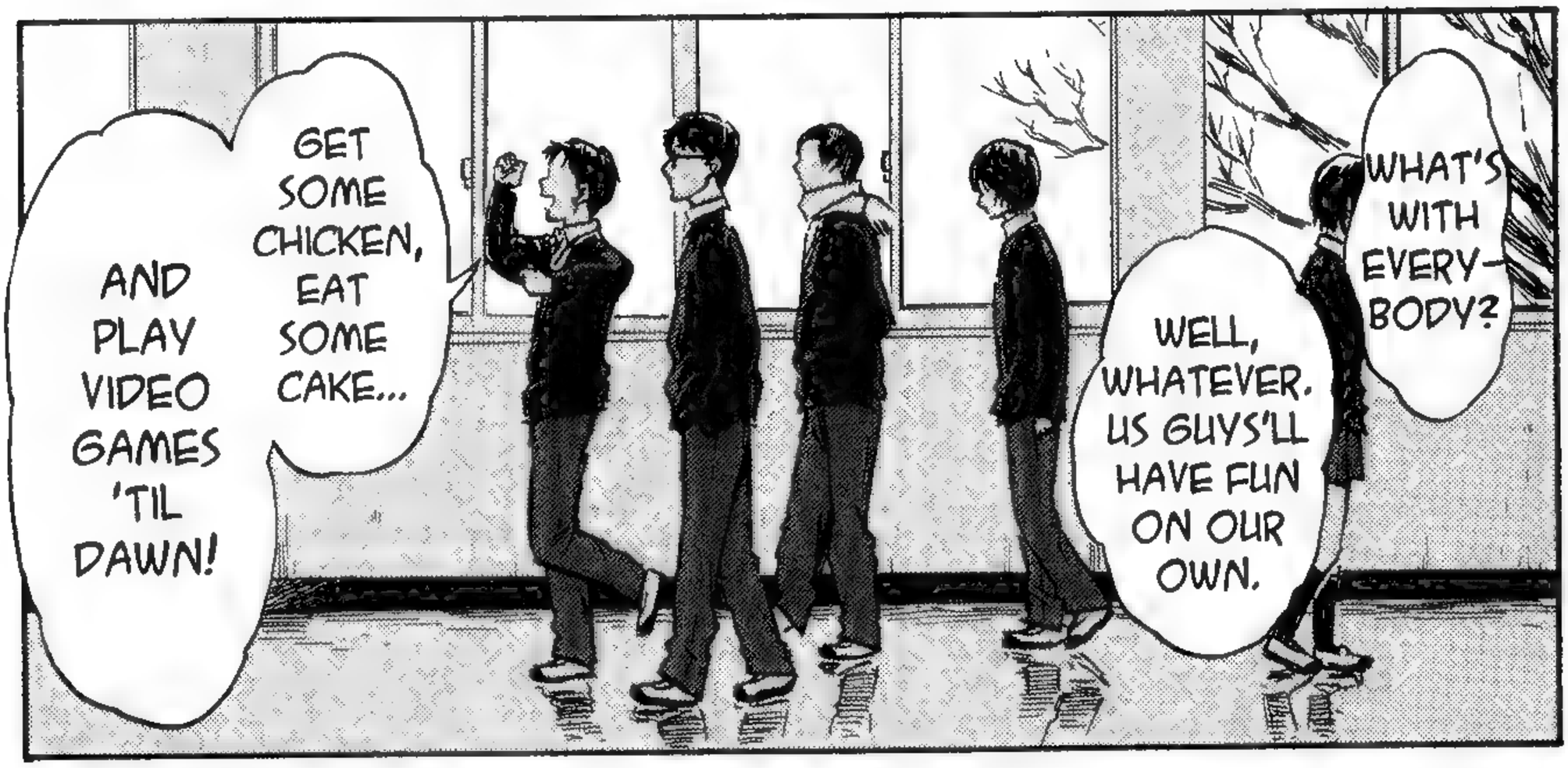
OH, WE'RE GOING SHOPPING TOGETHER TODAY.

AND YOU, SHOKO?

ME? WELL—

WHAT PRESENT DID YOU DECIDE ON?


UGH
DIE, NORMALS!


GET SOME CHICKEN, EAT SOME CAKE...
AND PLAY VIDEO GAMES 'TIL DAWN!
WELL, WHATEVER. US GUYS'LL HAVE FUN ON OUR OWN.
WHAT'S WITH EVERY-BODY?

HEY
YOU COME TOO, KASUGA. FORGET YOUR RELA-TIVES.

OH BOY, WHAT A SHITTY YOUTH.
JUST AS I FEARED ...
A PARTY WITH ONLY GUYS.

JEEZ ...

YOU'RE SERI-OUSLY LAME, MAN.

YEAH, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO GO.

SORRY, I CAN'T.

I HAVE TO WORK.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TODAY, TOKIWA?

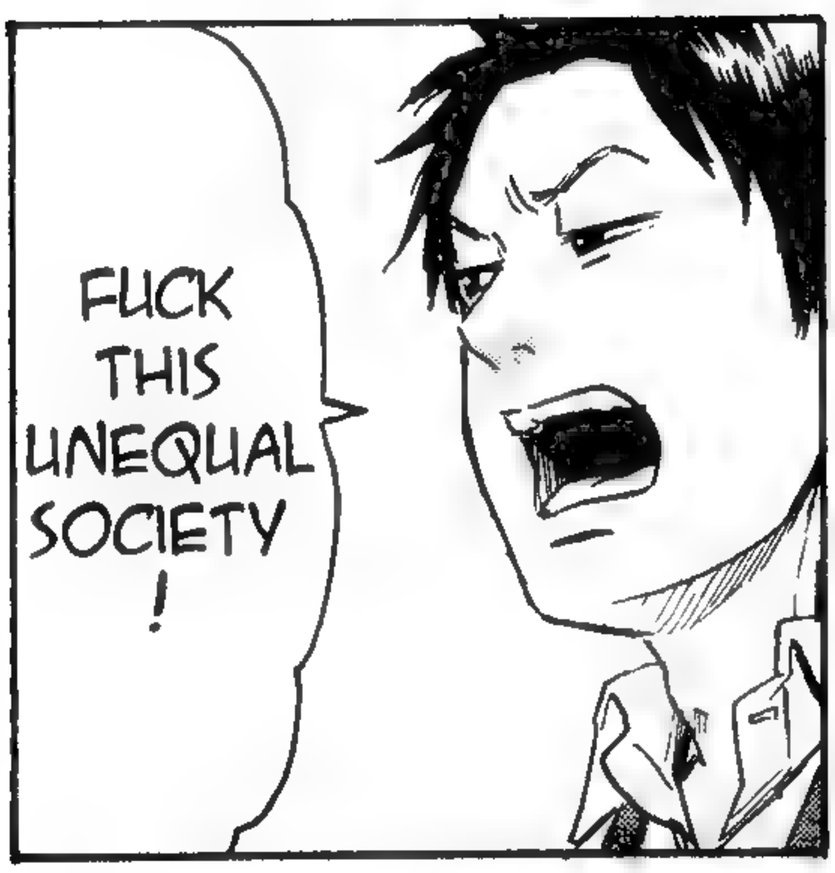
EVERY-BODY'S GONNA MEET UP.

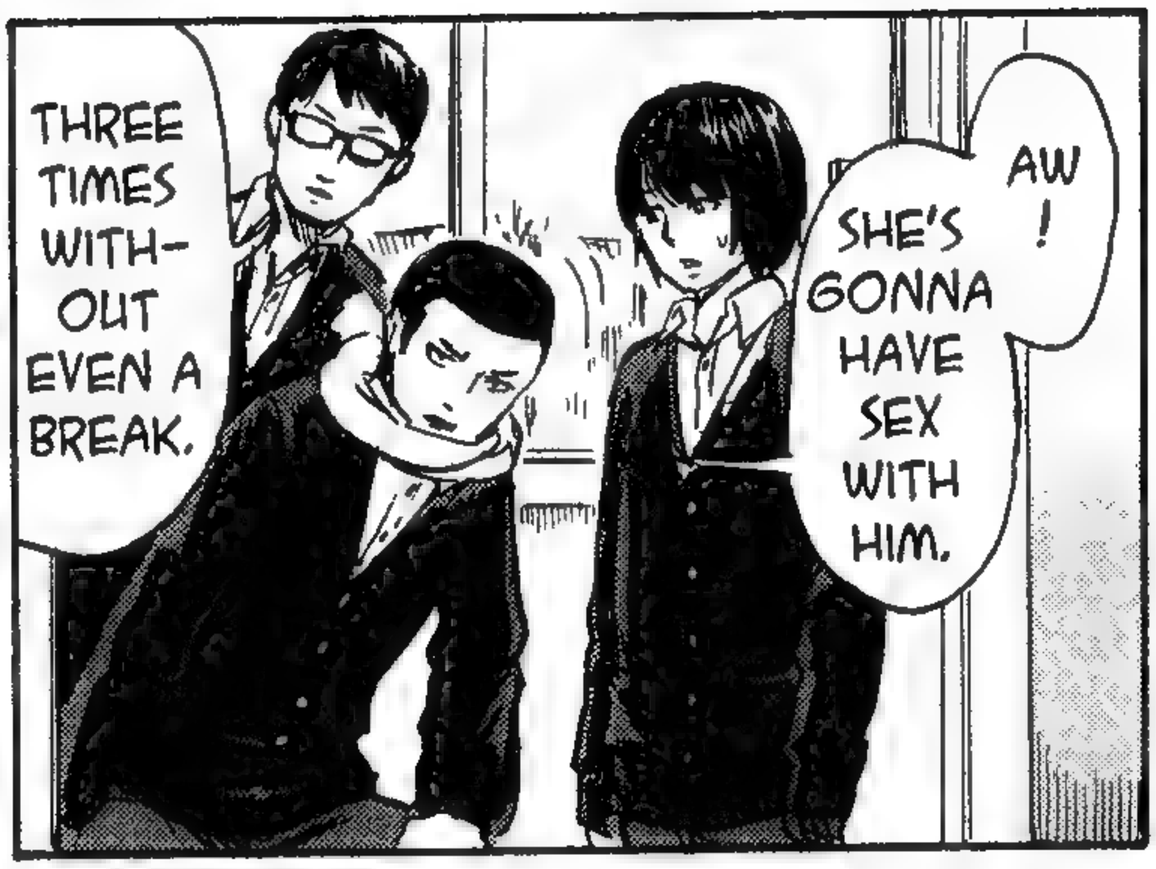
AND YOU'LL GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER, I BET, AFTER YOU'RE DONE?

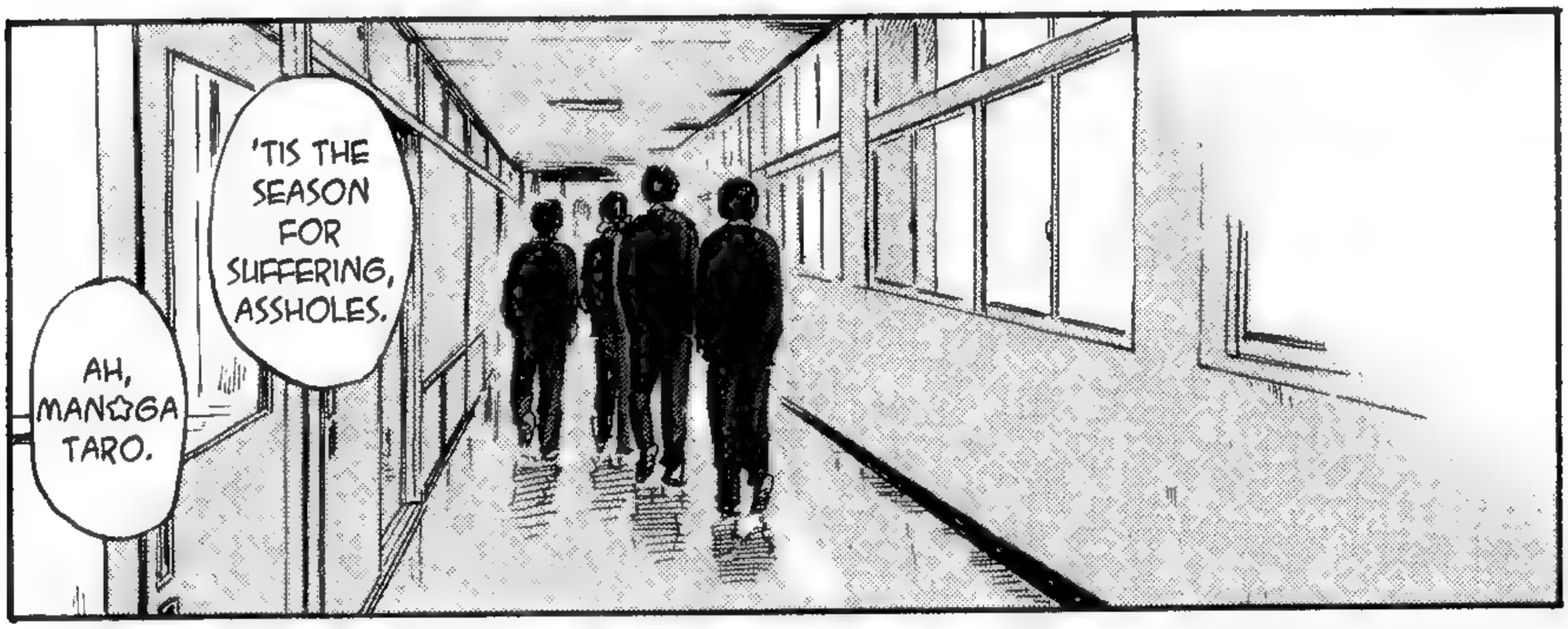
HA HA ...

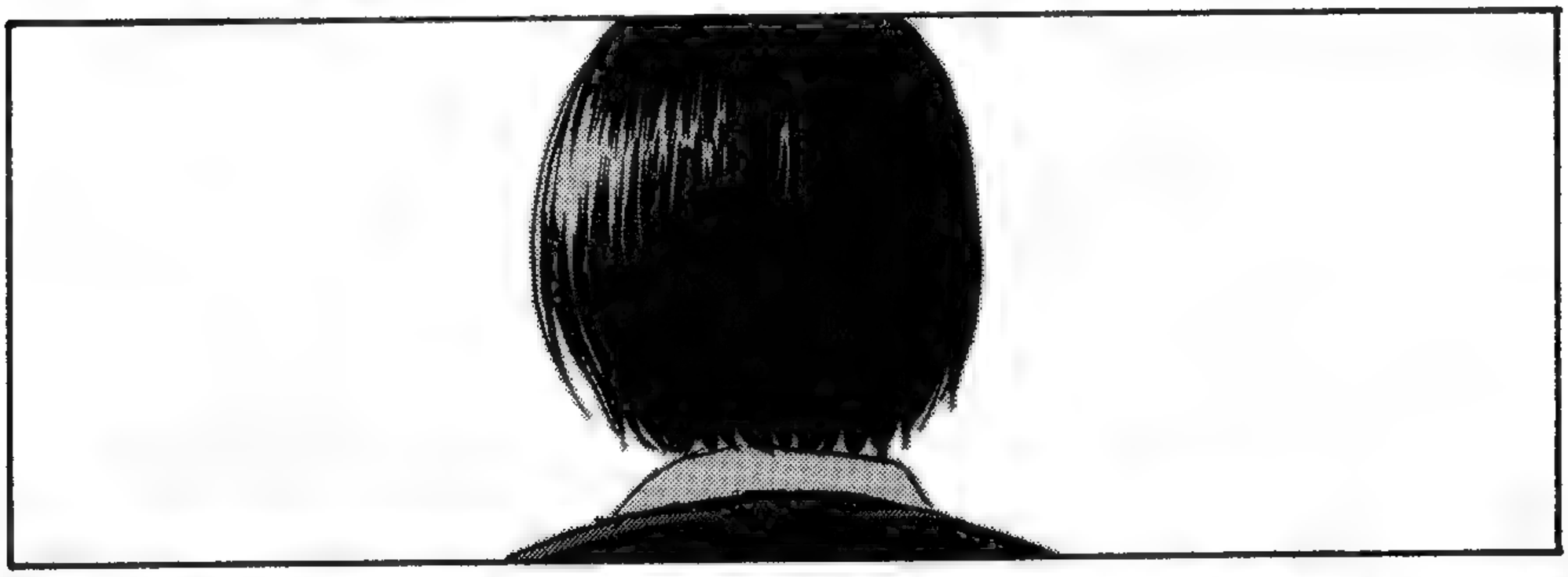
YEAH, I GUESS.

WHAT? OH, RIGHT, WITH KOJI!

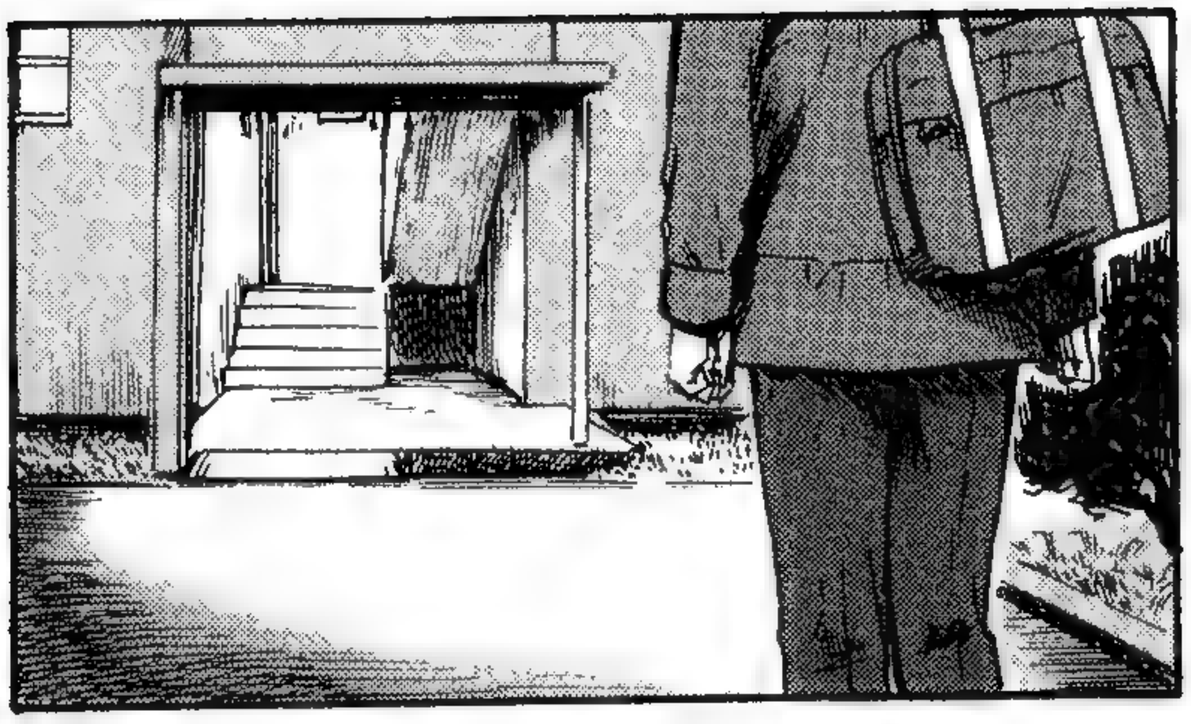

FUCK THIS UNEQUAL SOCIETY !

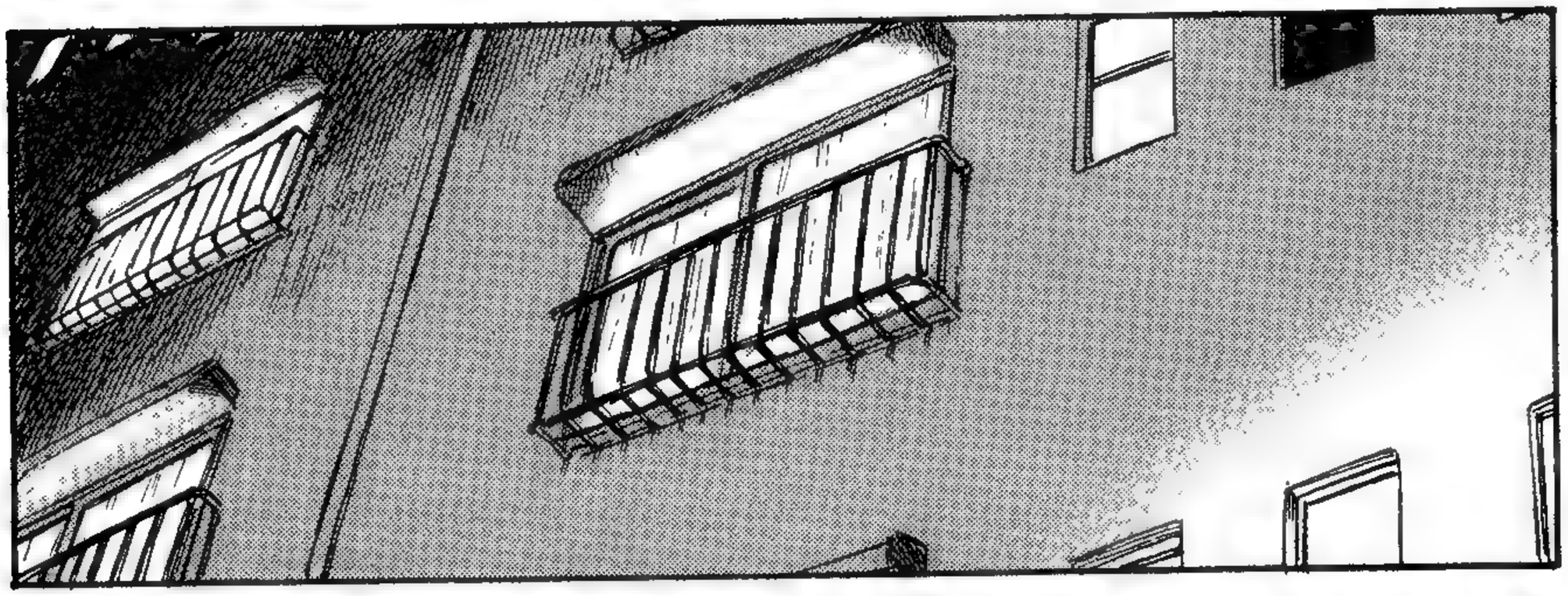

THREE TIMES WITH-OUT EVEN A BREAK.
AW !
SHE'S GONNA HAVE SEX WITH HIM.


'TIS THE SEASON FOR SUFFERING, ASSHOLES.
AH, MAN☆GA TARO.

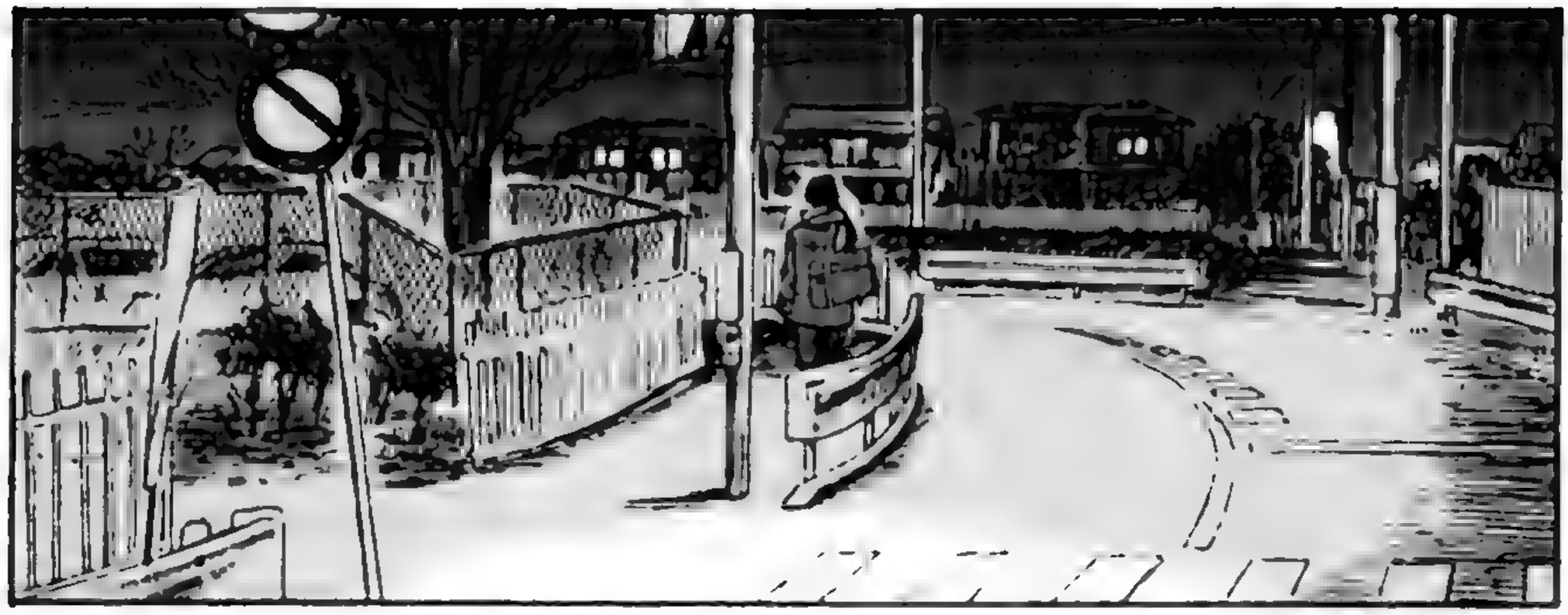


KAGOYAMA CONDOS. KAGOYAMA CONDOS.





ジャ
KRCH



Ah ha ha ha

Aha ha ha

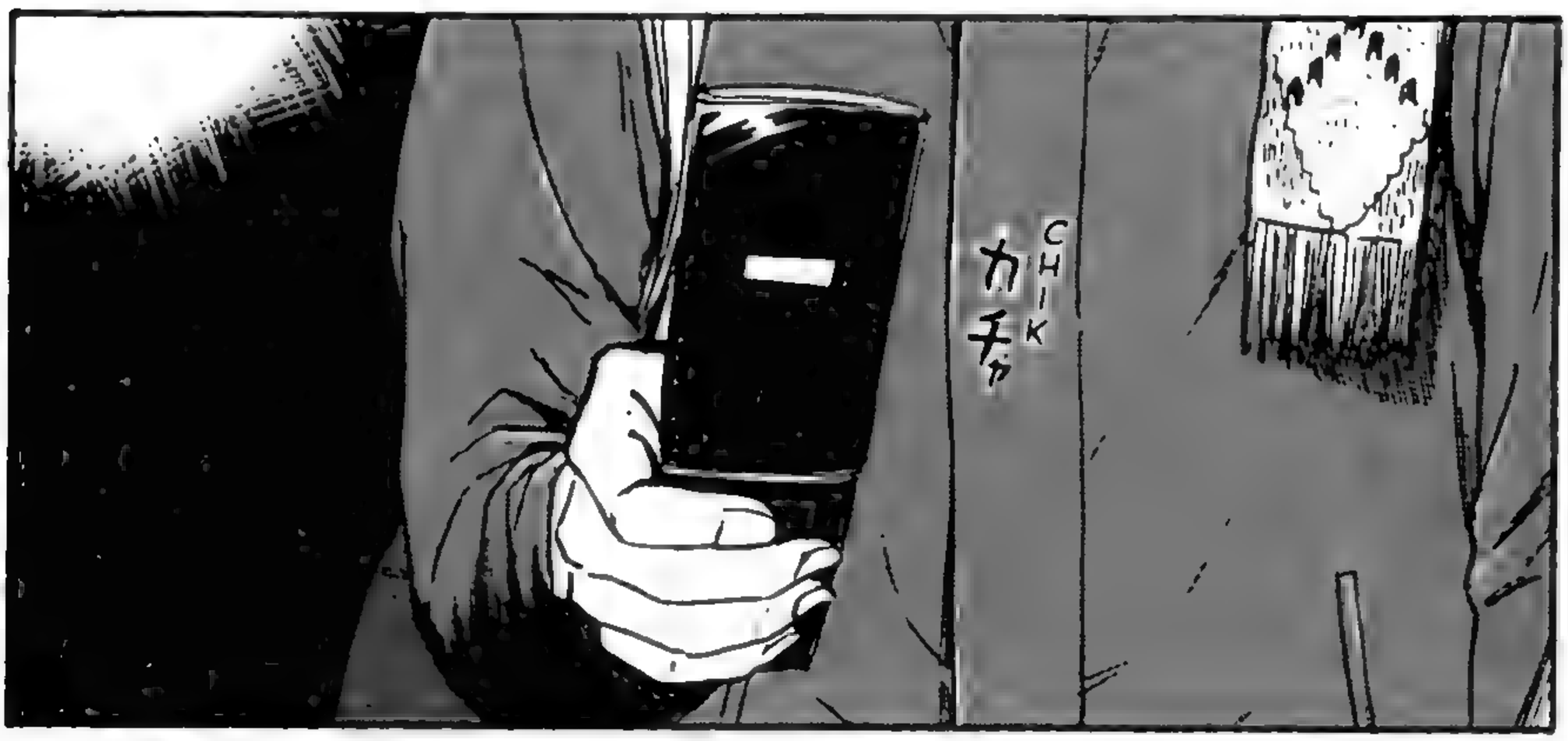
Itsuki, you're ama-zing!

Merry Christ-mas!

YOUR EYES LOOK DEAD. DEADER THAN USUAL.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I...WANT TO WORK ALONE FOR NOW.
MAYBE I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT AFTER ALL.


カチ
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TAK
TEXT
Sorry to bother you on Christmas.
Thanks for the other day.
How's the novel coming since then?

コチ
TAK
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TAK
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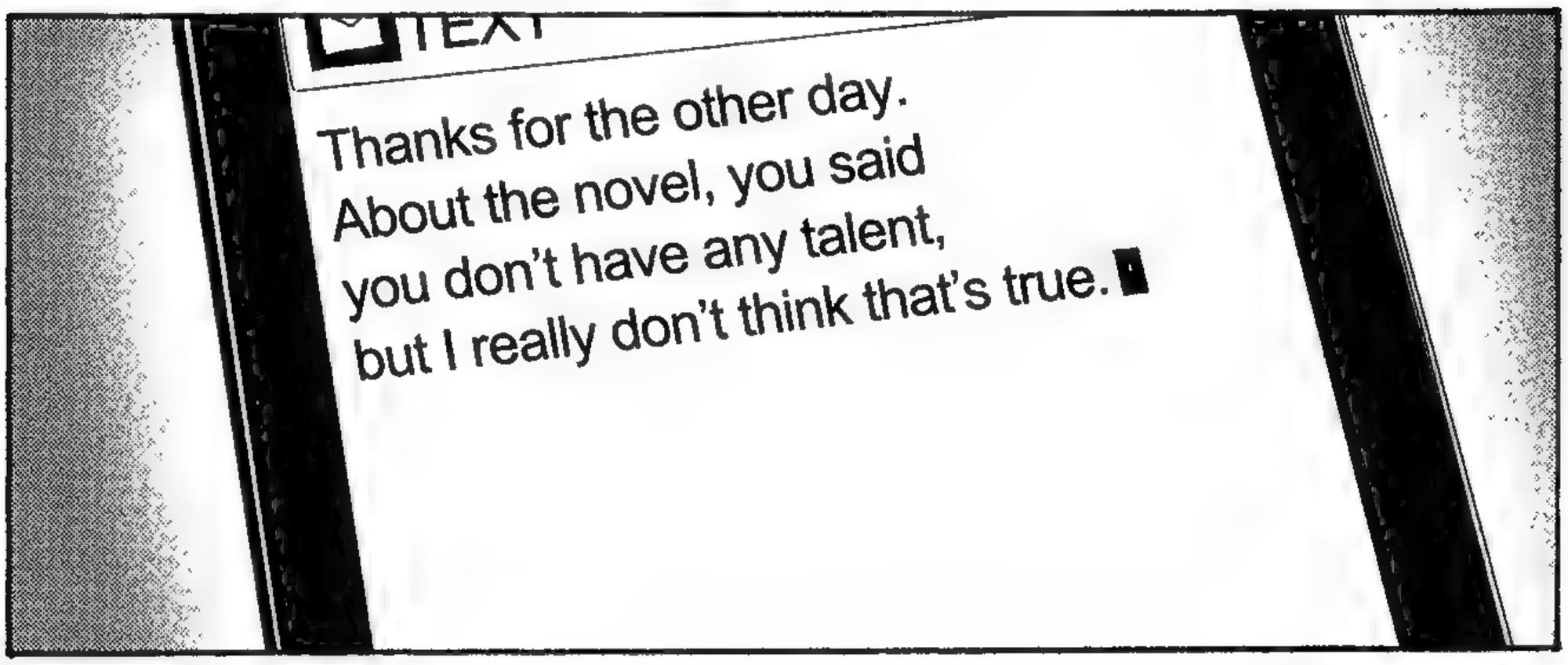
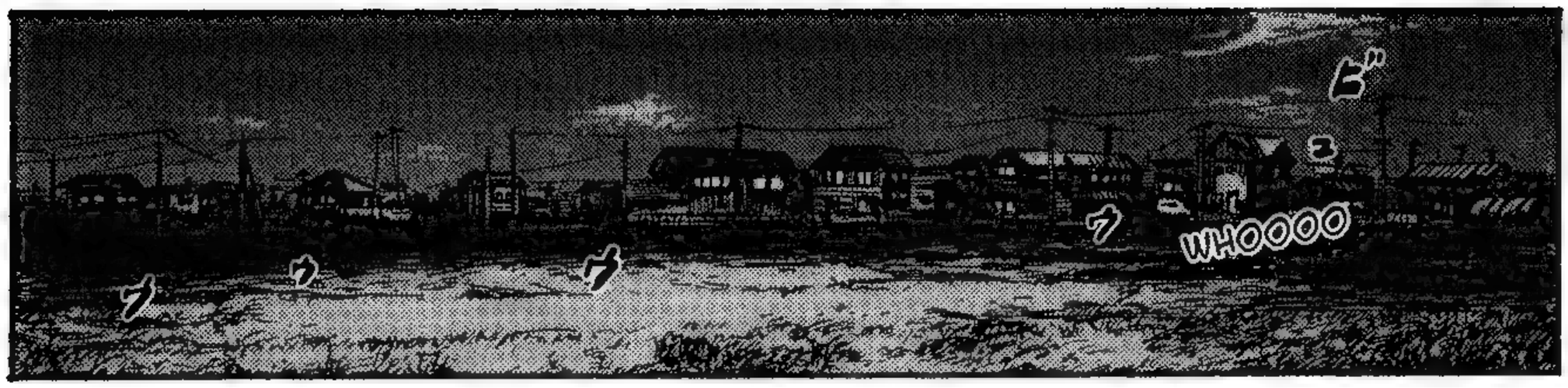
TAK


TEXT
Thanks for the other day.
About the novel, you said
you don't have any talent,
but I really don't think that's true.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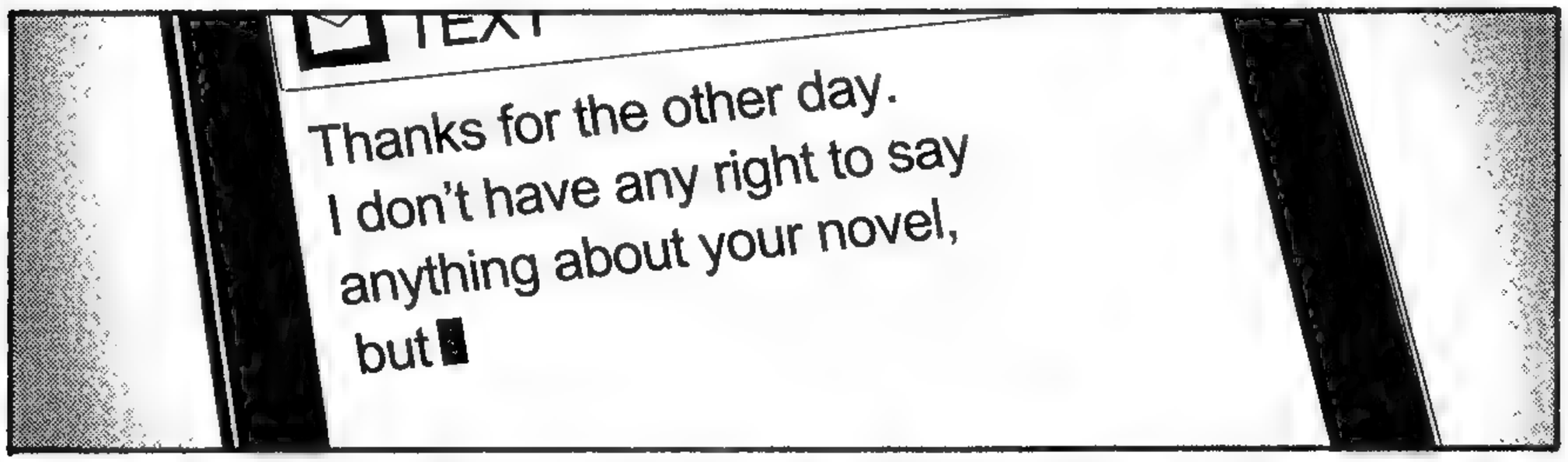
WHOOOO
ビ"


TEXT
Thanks for the other day.
I don't have any right to say
anything about your novel,
but

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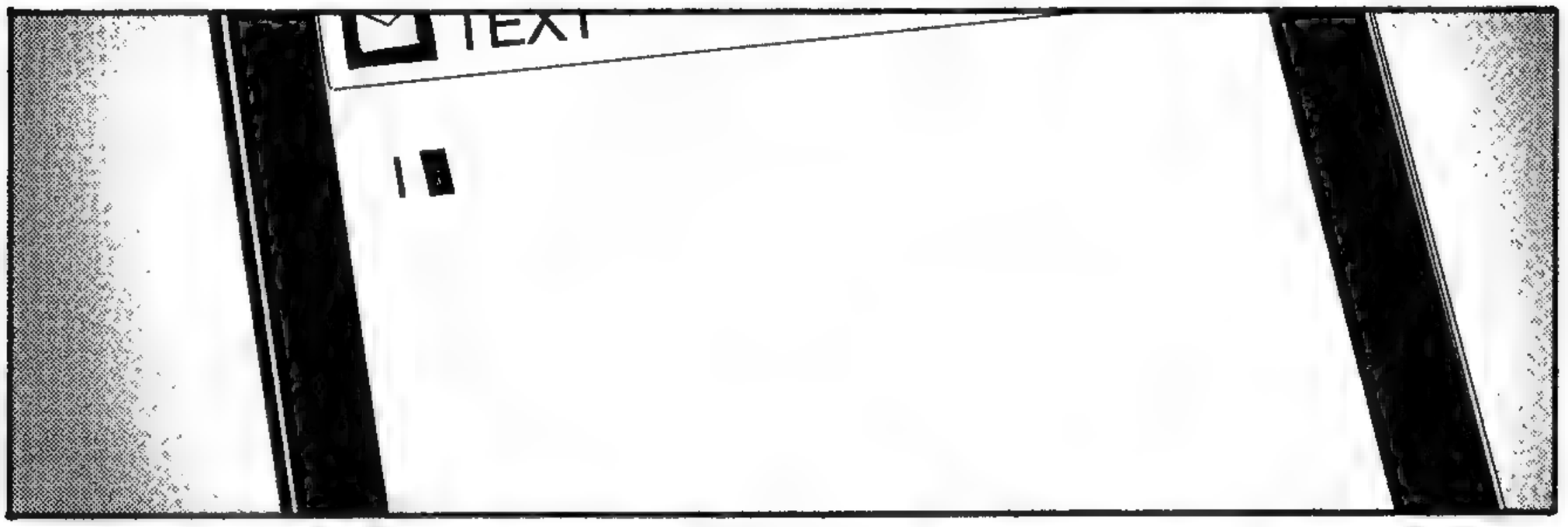
TAK


TEXT

IS SHE
STANDING
IN FOR
NAKAMURA
?

ARE YOU GONNA

MAKE HER UNHAPPY TOO?

I'M STILL FEELING LET DOWN.

I SAW SOME-THING IN TOKIWA'S NOVEL ...

SOME-THING WORTH LIVING FOR.

...NO.

I KNOW I DID.

That's merely what you'd like to think, isn't it?

You want that novel to be a tool. To comfort yourself, isn't that so?

You're just weak. Dependent.

You've always been weak, depending ...

And now again, you depend on Tokiwa and her novel.

on books,

on Saeki,

on Naka-mura.

I...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

You don't even understand why Nakamura pushed you away.

What's not true?

You didn't save her from anything, did you?!

What Nakamura had in her eyes wasn't what you had in yours.

Nakamura, Saeki, your father, and your mother.

It's your fault.

It's all because of you!

It was you who broke everything !

You only spread misery !

It would be better if you'd never existed !

Ah ha ha ha ha ha ha!

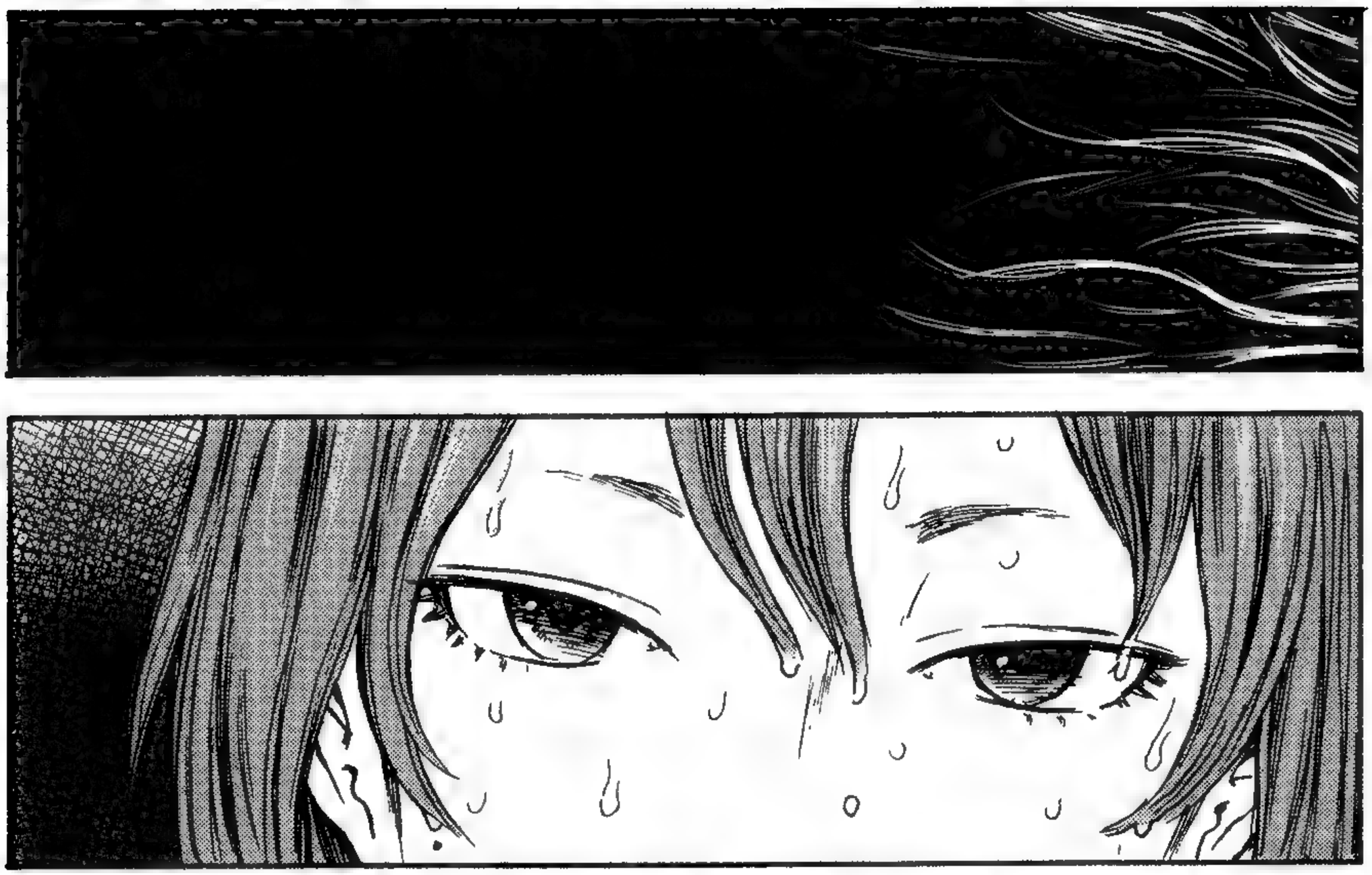
"I" what?! Huh?!

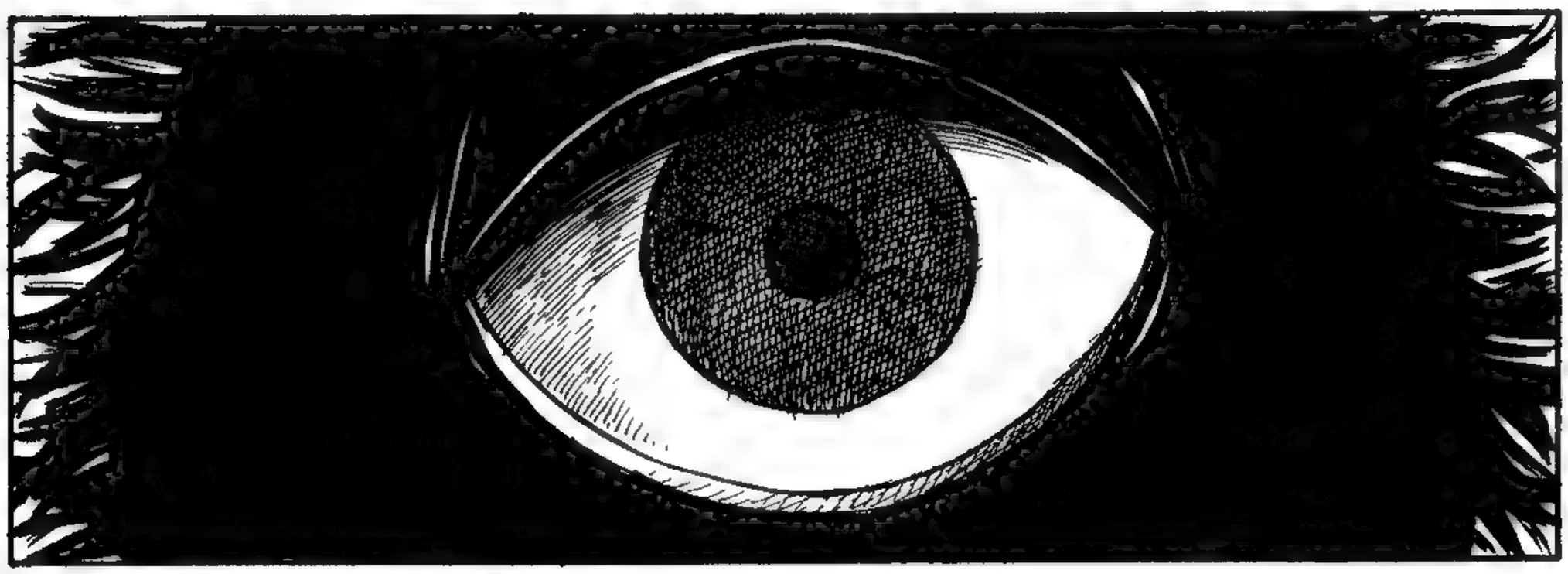
はは HA HA はは HA HA はは HA HA はは HA HA はは

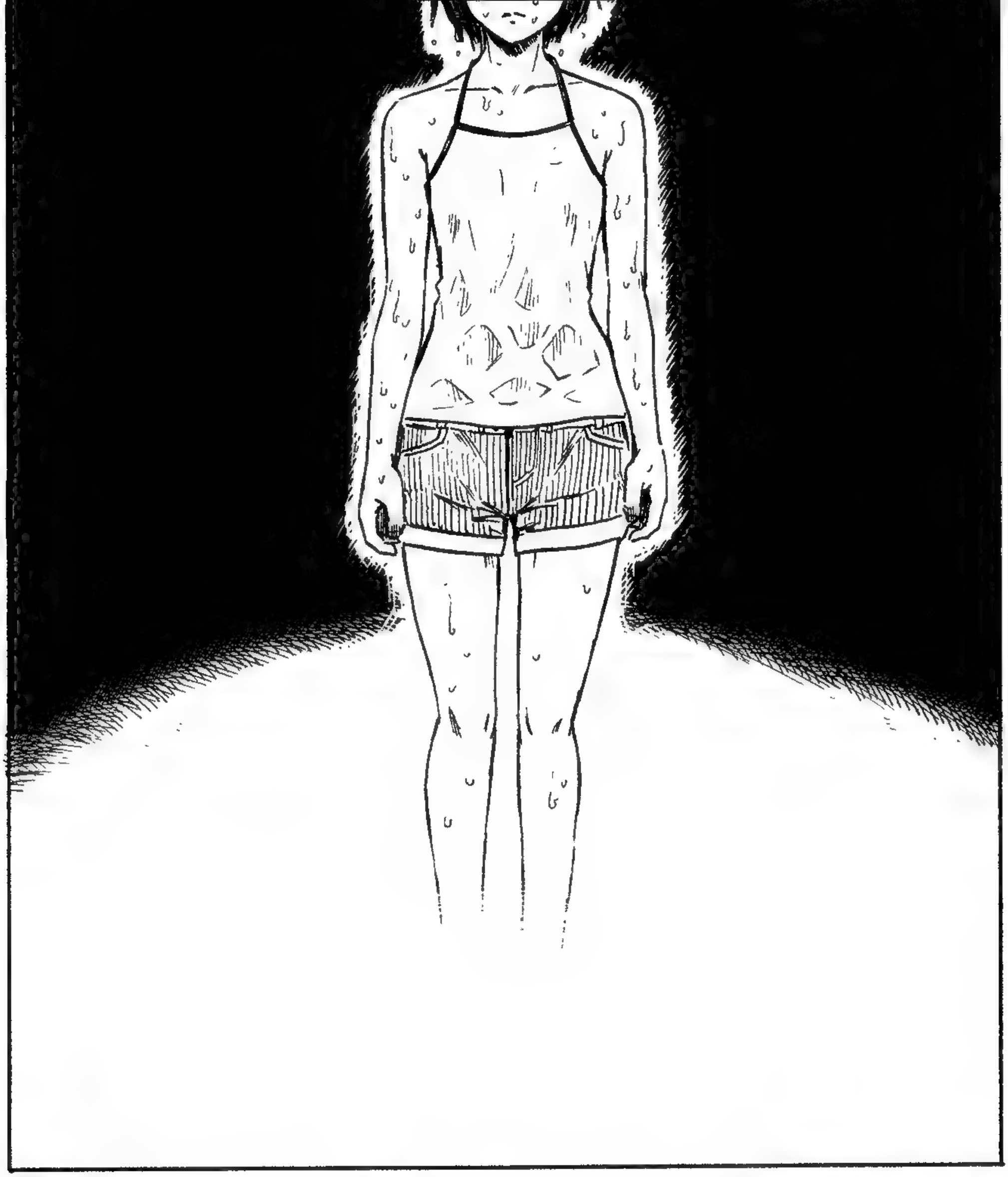
MIS-FORTUNE ON TWO FEET... A SHIT-BUG, I'M EMPTY, ...YES. IT'S TRUE.

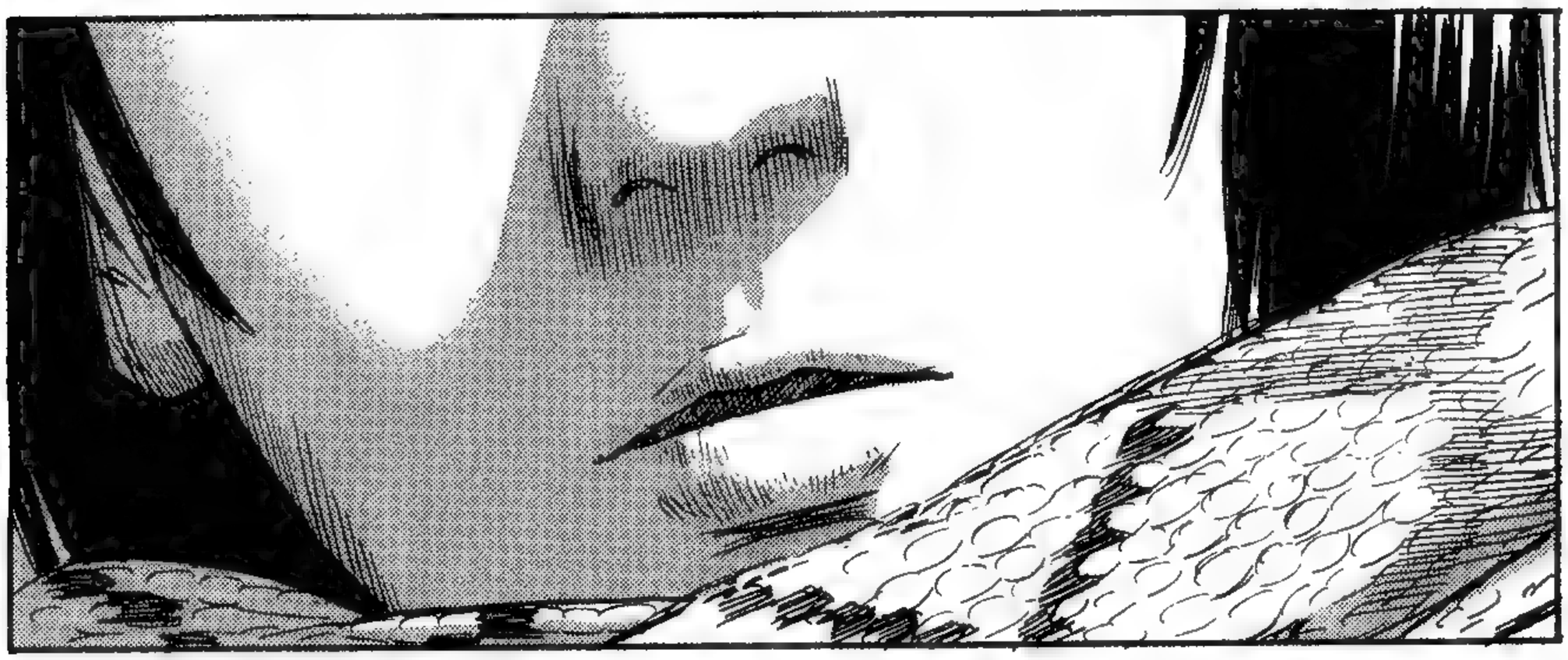
AND YET .... AND YET.

NAKA-
MURA
...









Ghost

○ The Ghost-killings (tentative)

The Ghost's Return

A GHOST ...

ITS WIN-DOWS GLOW

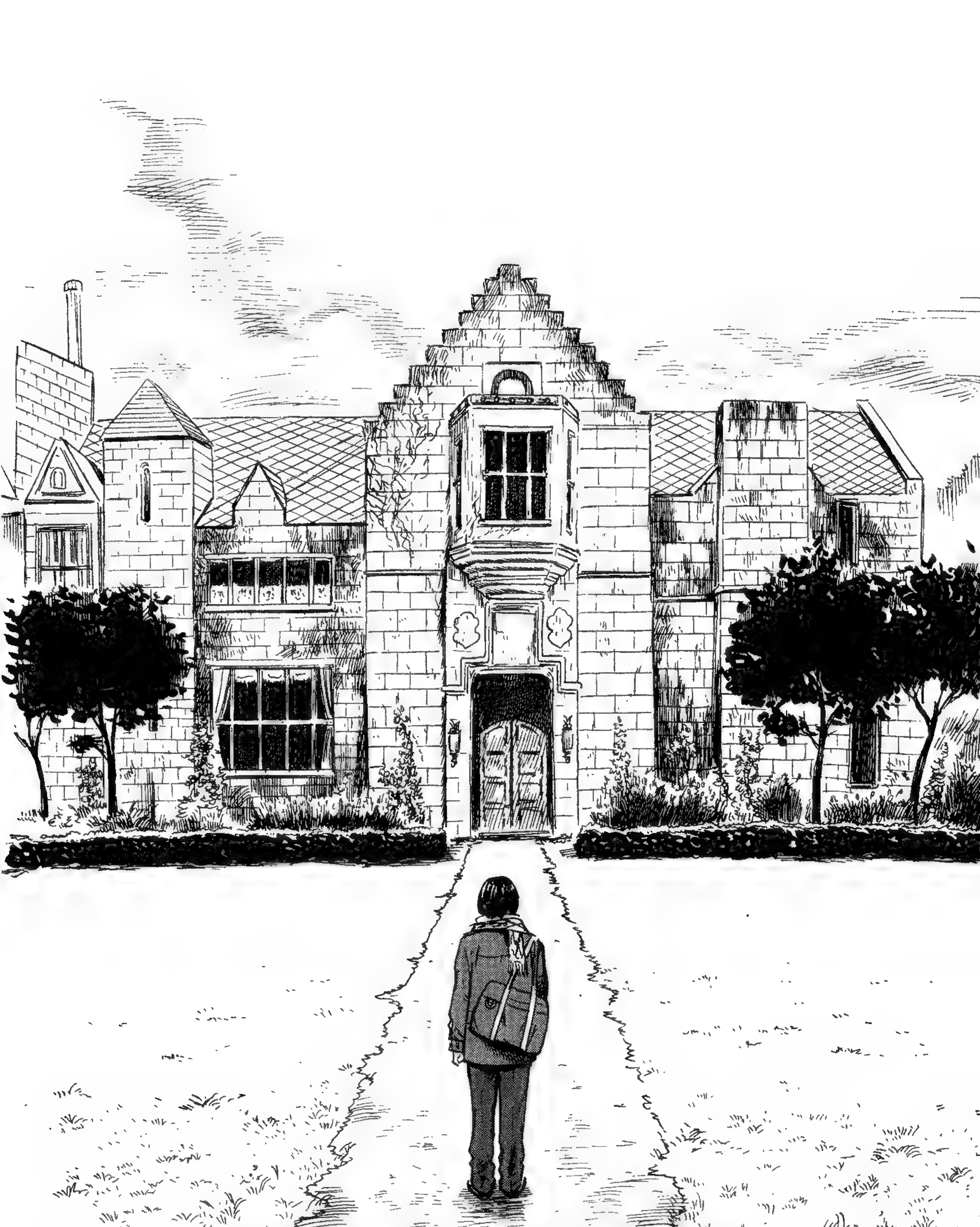
AND THE MISSING PEOPLE ARE STANDING BY THEM!

the edge of town

A haunted paranormal area

Western style mansion

Poltergeist



GHOSTS ...

SO, WHAT?

YOU LIKE BOOKS?

NYAHAHA!

YOU...

TOKI-
WA.

WELCOME!

I'VE
BEEN
FAKING
MYSELF
ALL
THIS
TIME?

THAT
I LOVE
BOOKS.

I'VE
NEVER
TOLD
ANY-
ONE...

I'LL TRY AND WRITE IT!

THANK YOU.

DO YOU THINK I'M A FOOL?

HEY.

SUFFERING ALONE ALL THIS TIME. LIKE A GHOST...

YOU'VE BEEN

NAKA-
MURA.

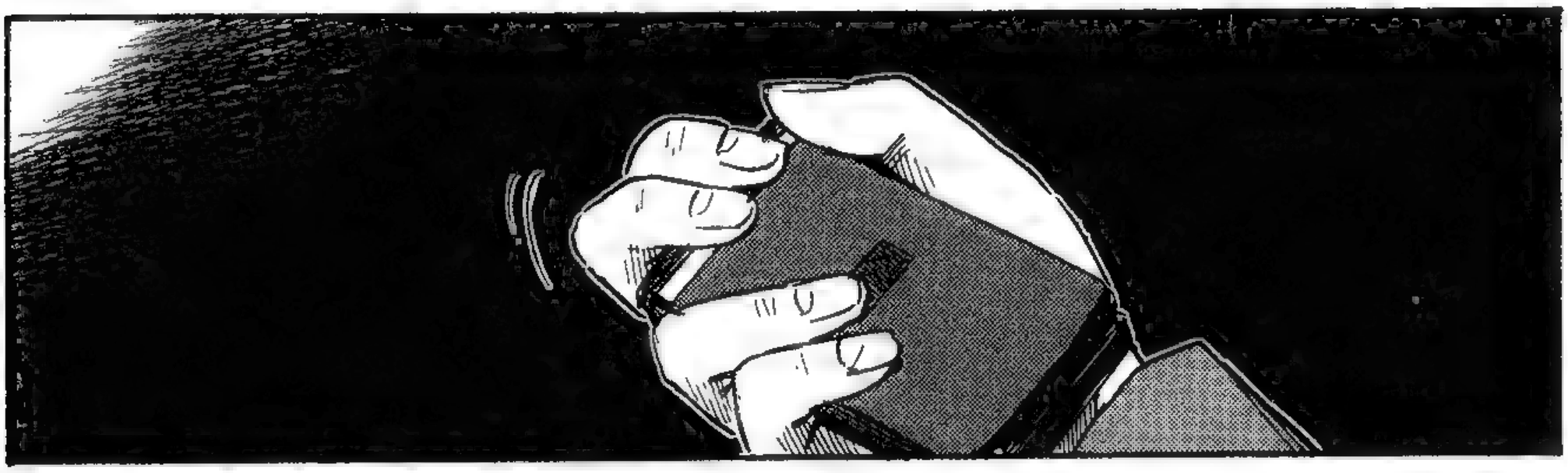
NAKAMURA WHO LIVES SOMEWHERE IN THIS WORLD RIGHT NOW EXISTS.
ONLY THE ...
THE NAKAMURA FROM BACK THEN NO LONGER EXISTS.
SHE'S GONE FOR GOOD.

BUT ...

BUT ...

LIVING MY WHOLE LIFE IN THE GHOST WORLD?

I CAN'T DO IT.



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ドロ
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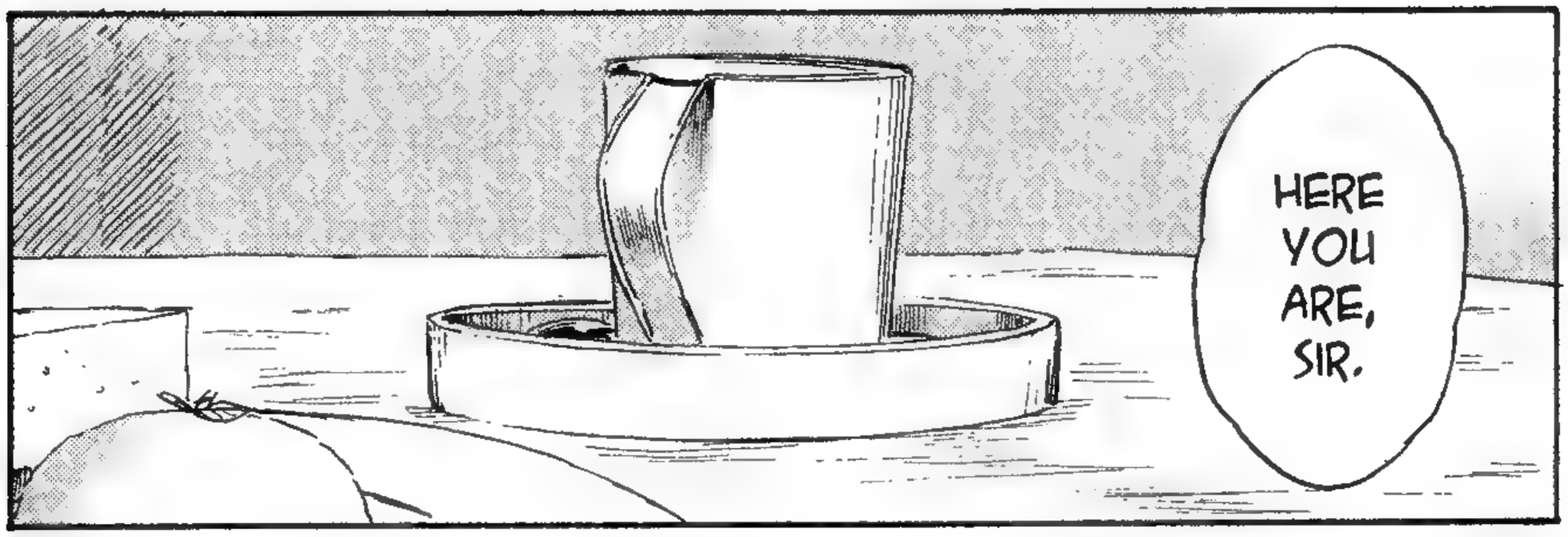
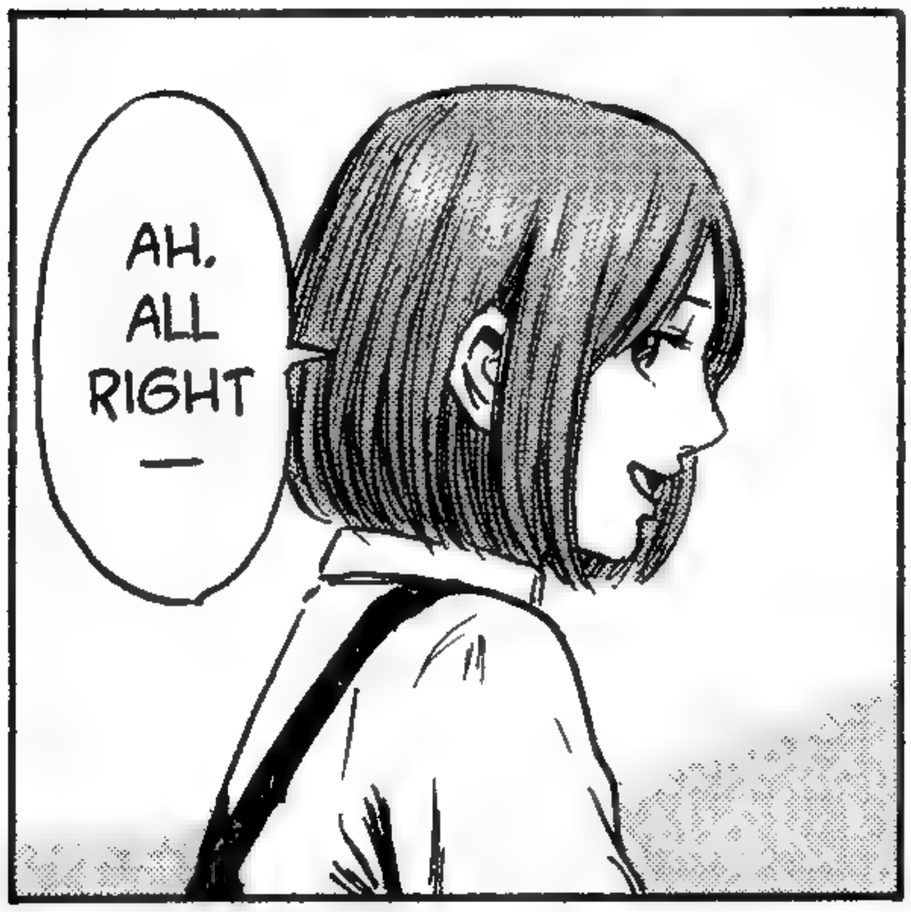
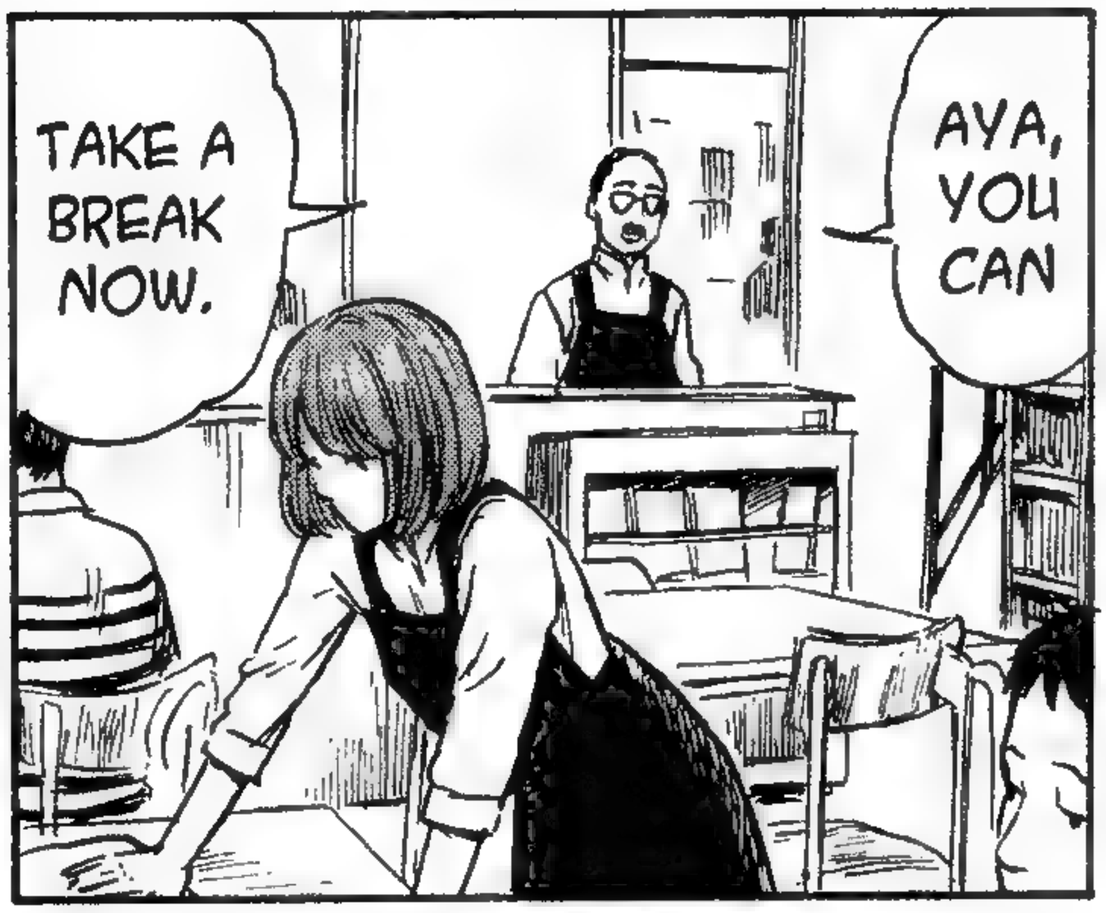
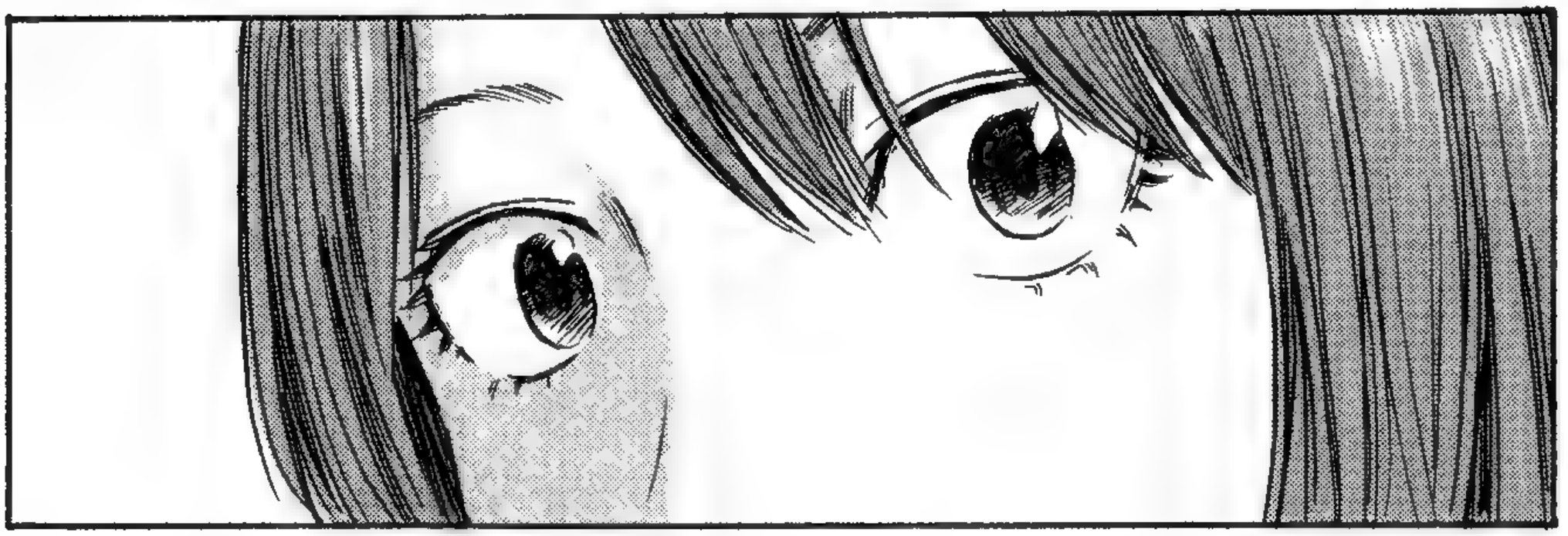

HERE YOU ARE, SIR.

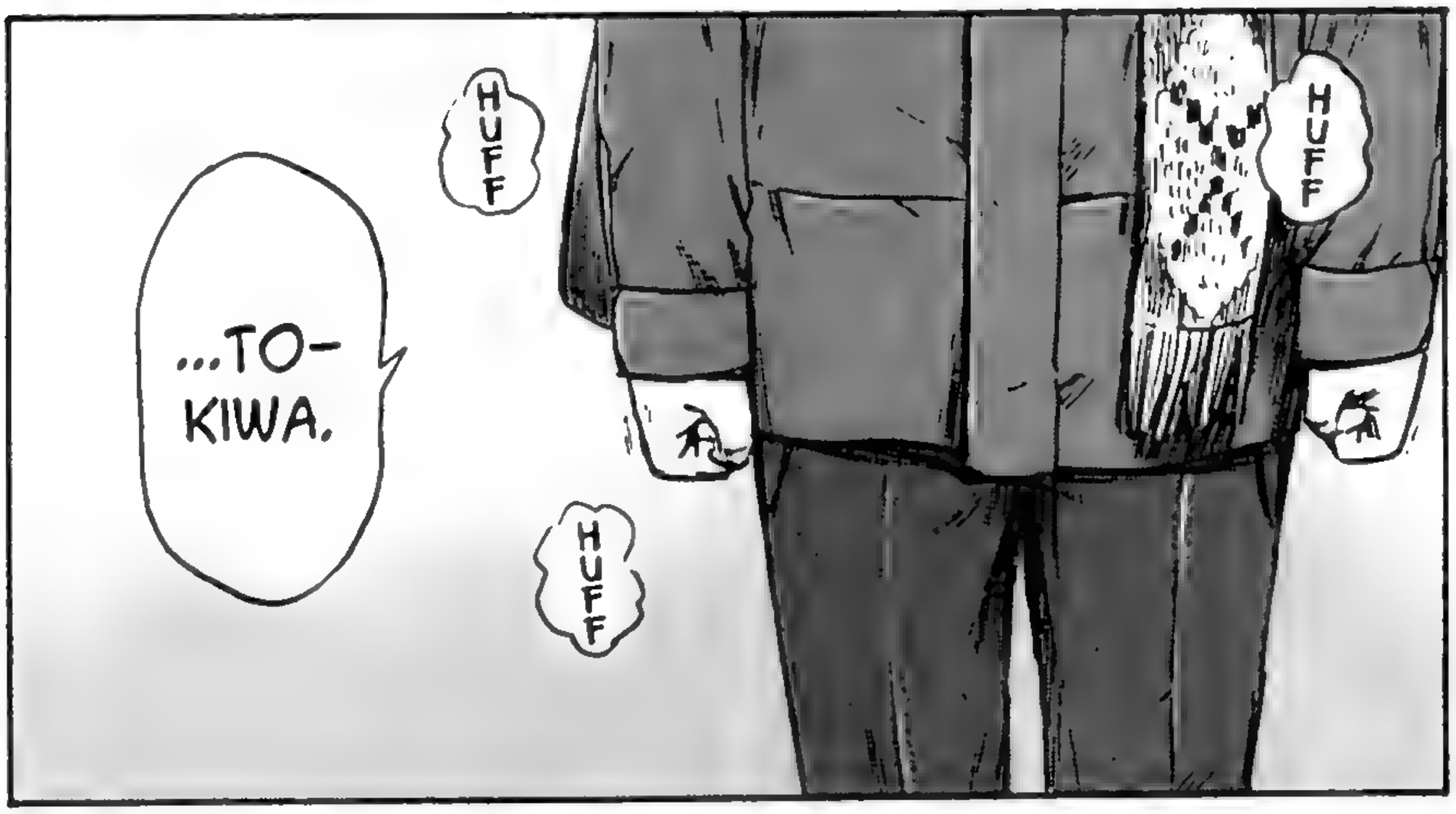

AH. ALL RIGHT —

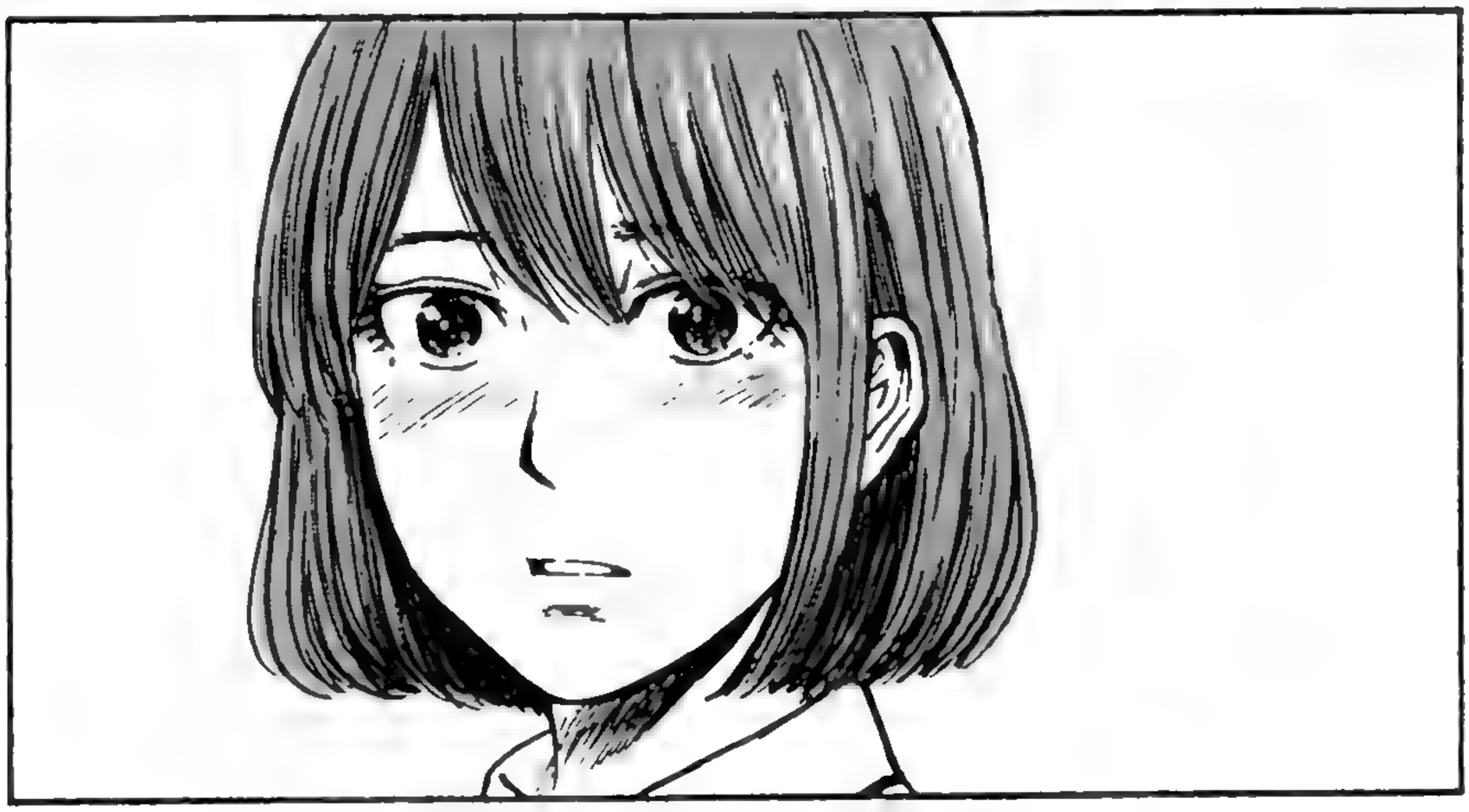

TAKE A BREAK NOW.
AYA, YOU CAN

WELCOME !



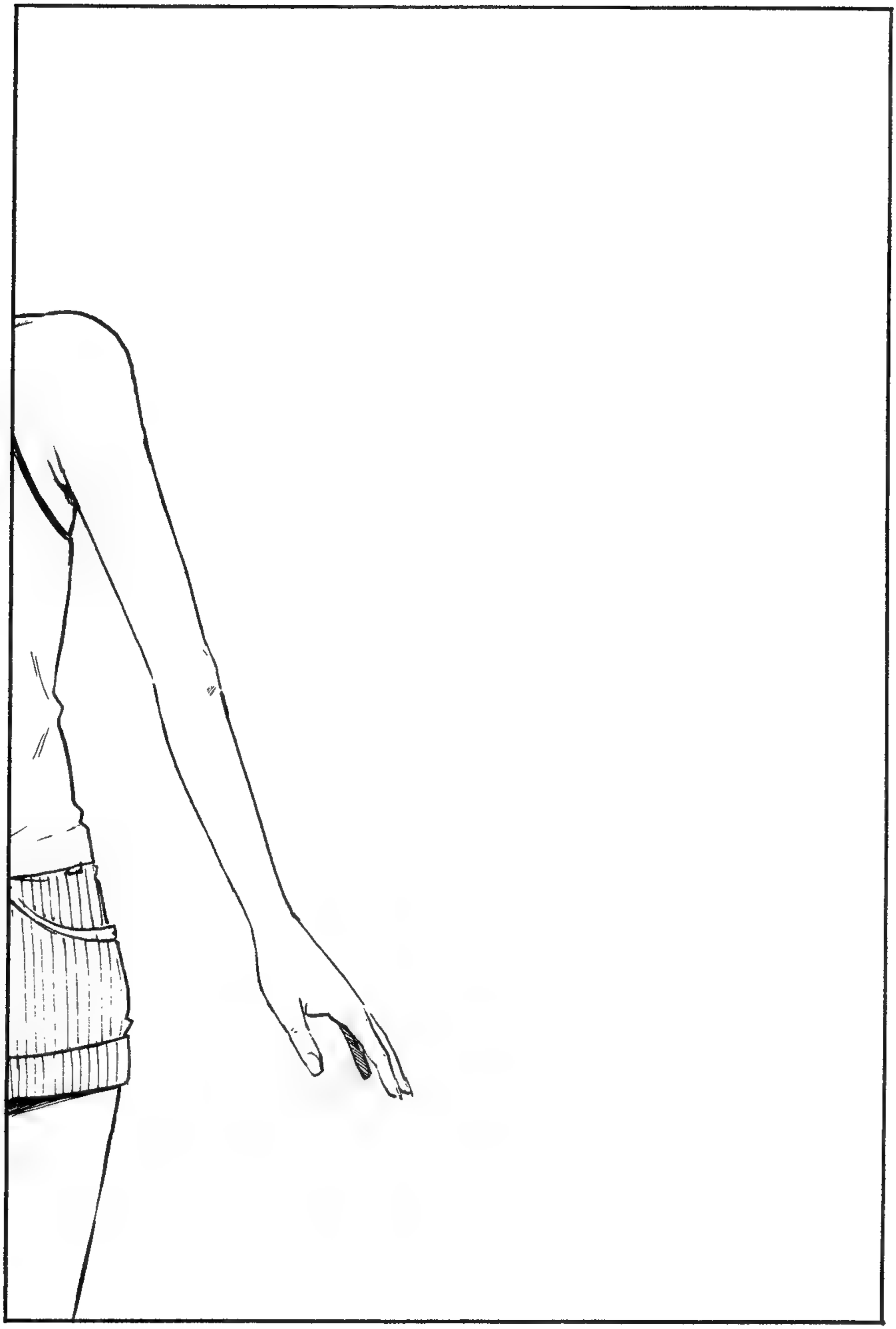
HUH?


HUFF
...TO-KIWA.
HUFF
HUFF



PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.

I LOVE YOU.



Chapter 45: You as Dear as the Night Sky

TOKIWA, I LOVE YOU.

PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...

WHA
2
?

Bwa ha ha

HA HA

I MEAN, WHAT A RISKY GAG...ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

HEY, HEY, WHAT'S THIS, BUDDY?!

"STEP"

"STEP"

"STEP"

SHUV

HUH?

C'MON, JUST SIT DOWN...

HUFF

HUFF

UH...
KASUGA
?

I'LL BE ON BREAK IN A SECOND, SO

JUST
...

KASUGA
...

WAIT UP, I'M WORKING NOW.

TOKIWA

COME WITH ME.

LIVE. WITH ME.

HEY, HEY, NOW!

WE'RE STILL IN BUSINESS HOURS HERE...

...C'MON, KASUGA.

Eeek!

I'LL BE THE ONE TO KILL YOUR GHOST.

LET'S GET OFF THESE TRACKS WE'RE ON.

I LOVE YOU!

GIVE US A BREAK. DO THIS LATER.

SORRY FOR THE DISTUR-BANCE, FOLKS.

HEY, SERIOUSLY, WHAT DO YOU EVEN MEAN?

CALM DOWN.

TOKIWA!

TOKIWA!

KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY, YOU LITTLE—

KASUGA

KOJI.

I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU ANYMORE.

HUH?

I'M SORRY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T GO OUT WITH ME?

WHAT THE HELL?

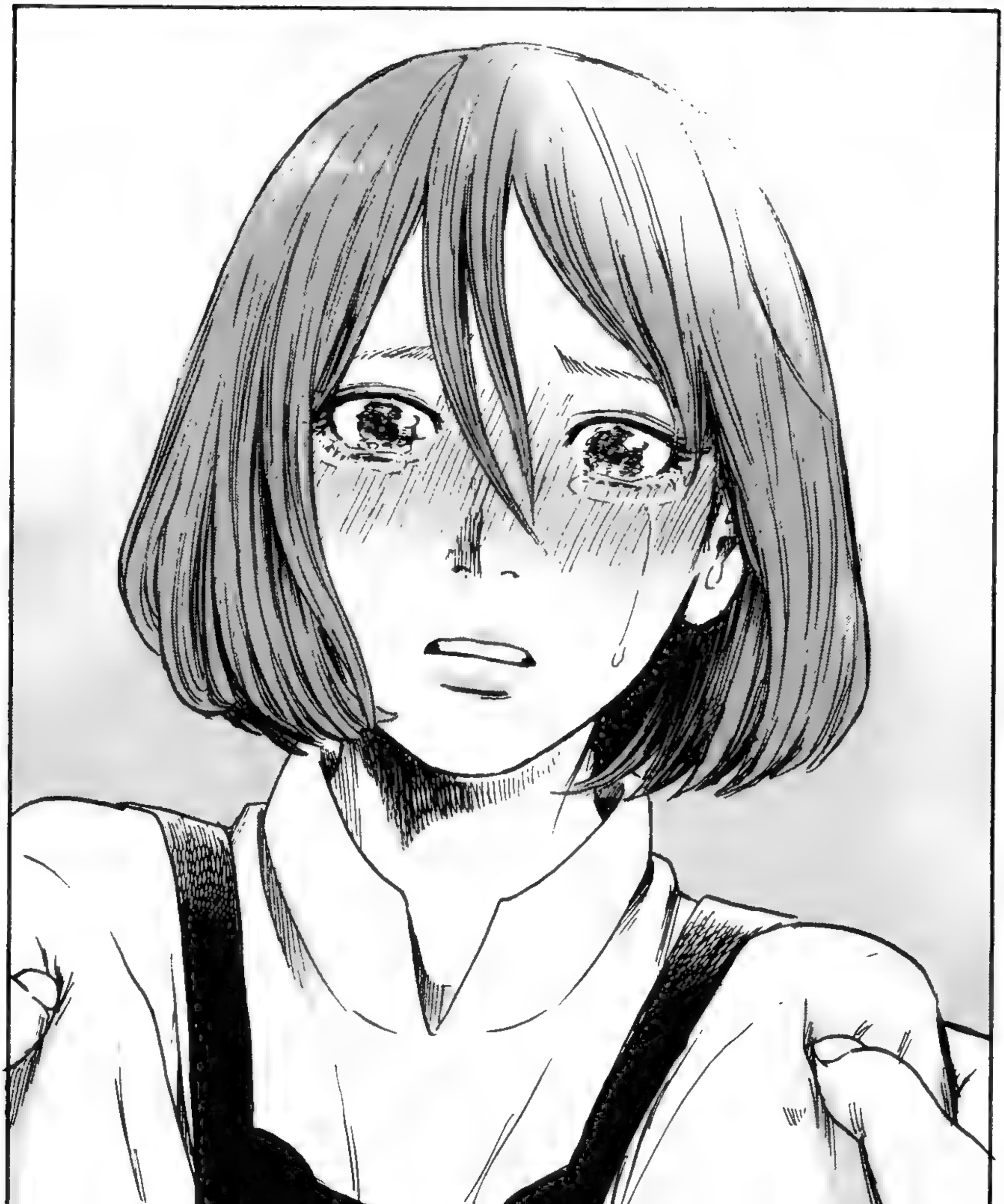
YOU'RE BREAKING UP WITH ME AND GOING OUT WITH HIM?

YOU SAYING YOU'RE BREAKING UP WITH ME?

"SORRY," MY ASS... YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

...I'M SORRY.

Look at me, Aya!



AYA
...

SHF

コツ TOK コツ TOK コツ

ハッ

ガチャン

ガタ

SHUFF

GCHAK

KLAT

コツ TOK

ユッ TOK

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO QUIT.

BOSS, I'M SORRY.

AYA ?

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE ...

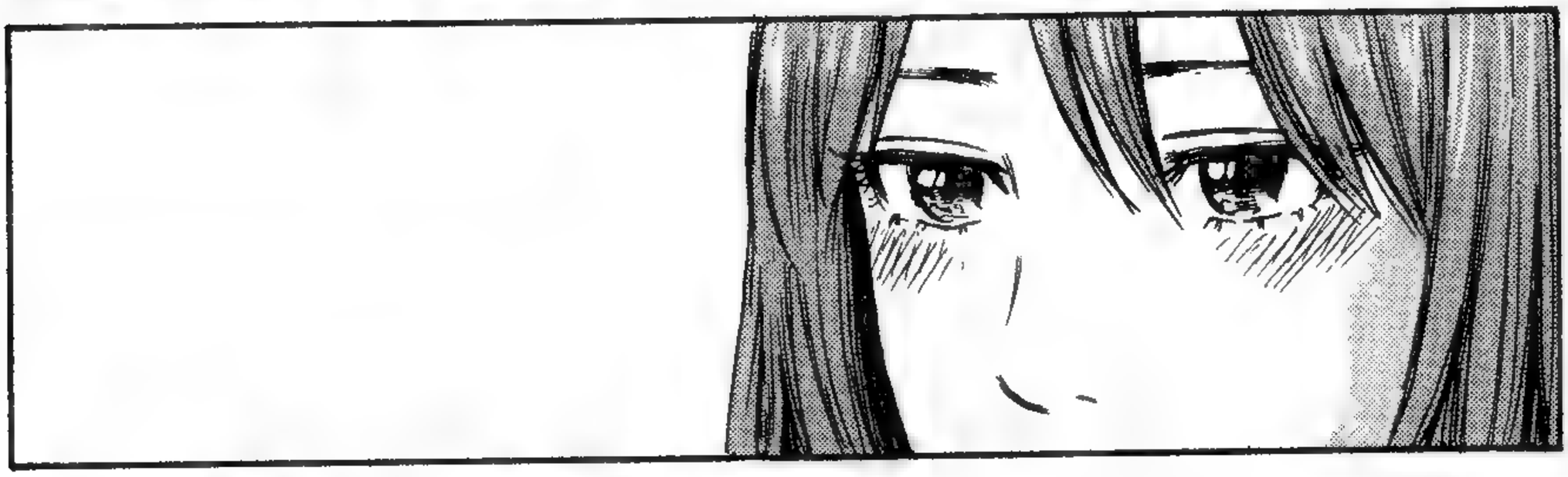
HUH ?!

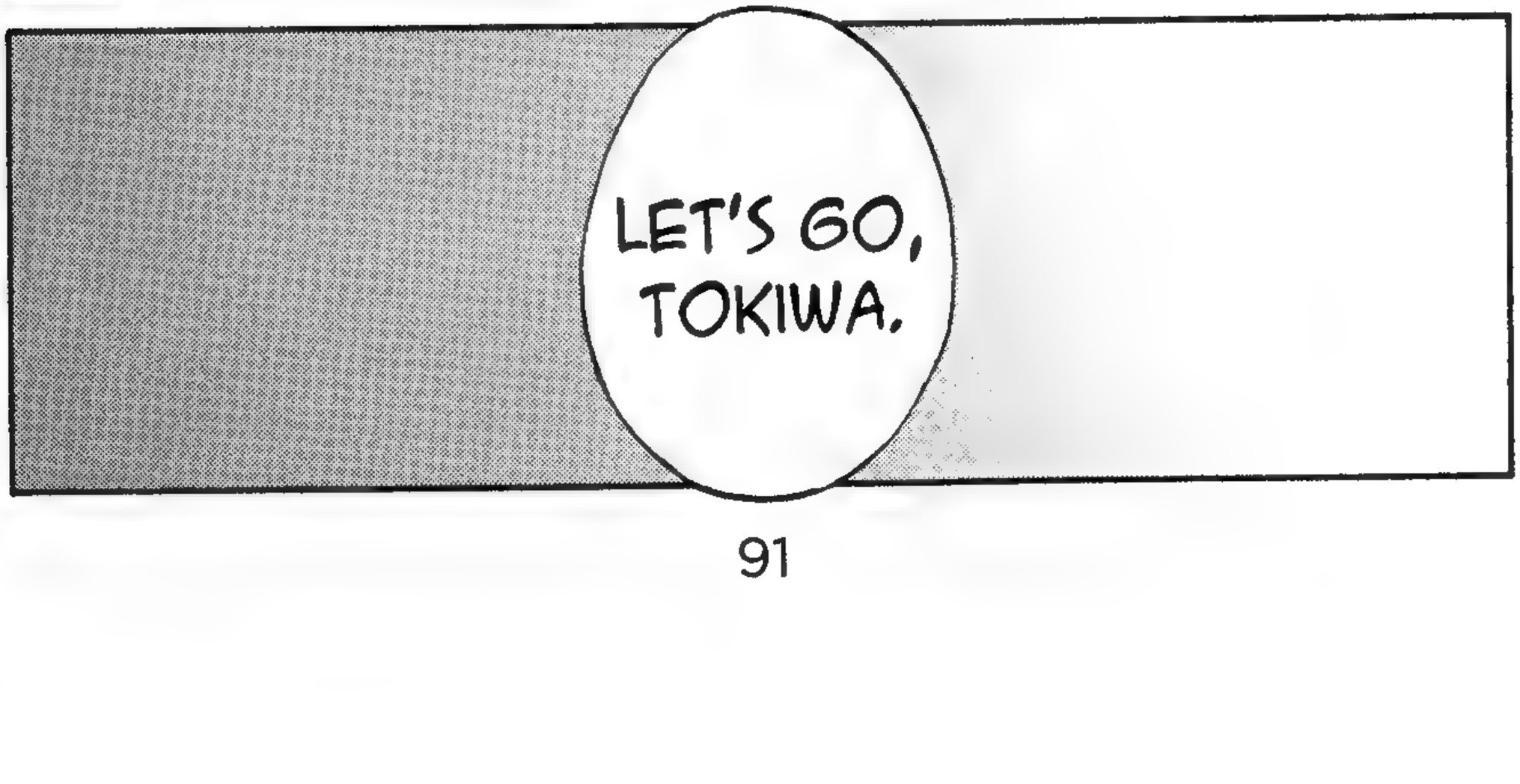
TOK

TOK

I'LL WASH THE UNIFORM AND RETURN IT.

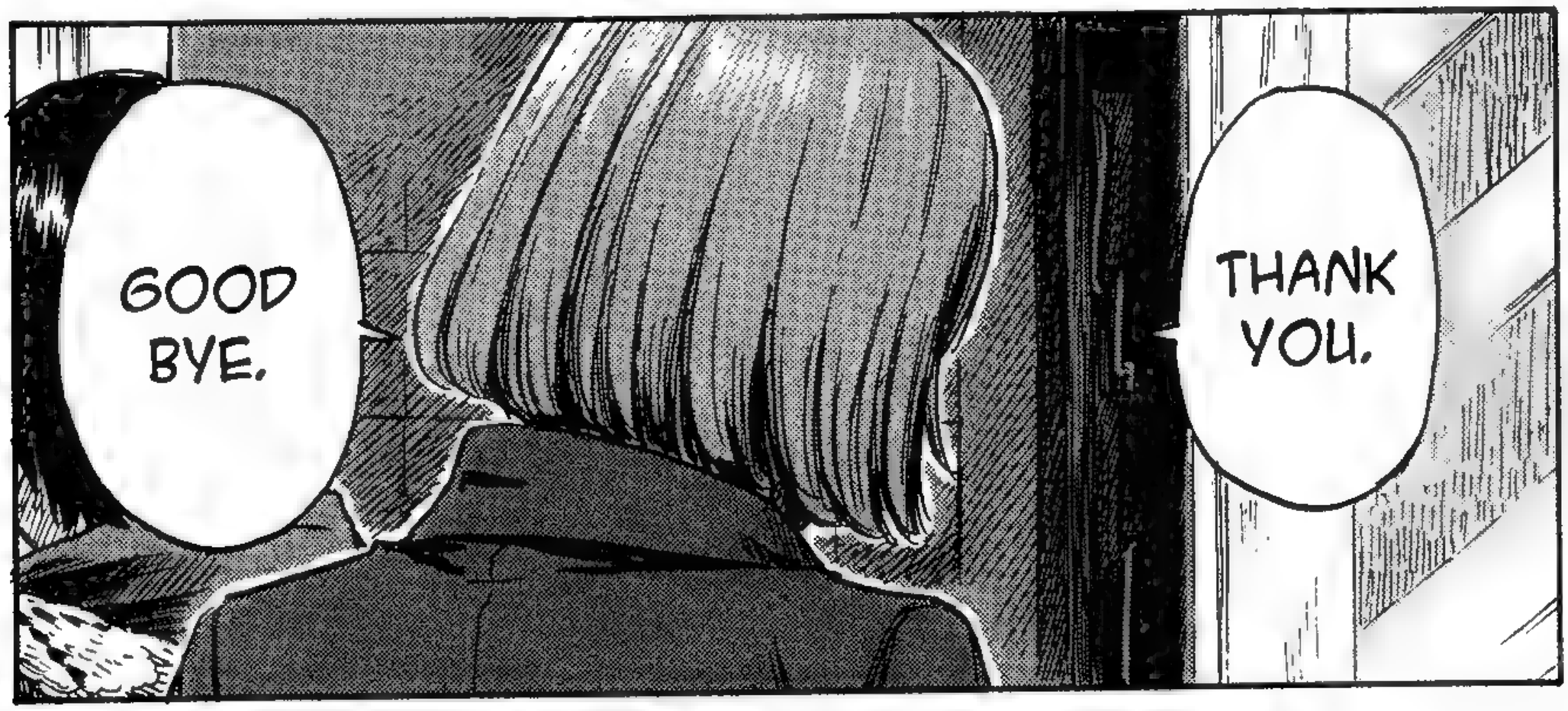
...I'M SORRY.

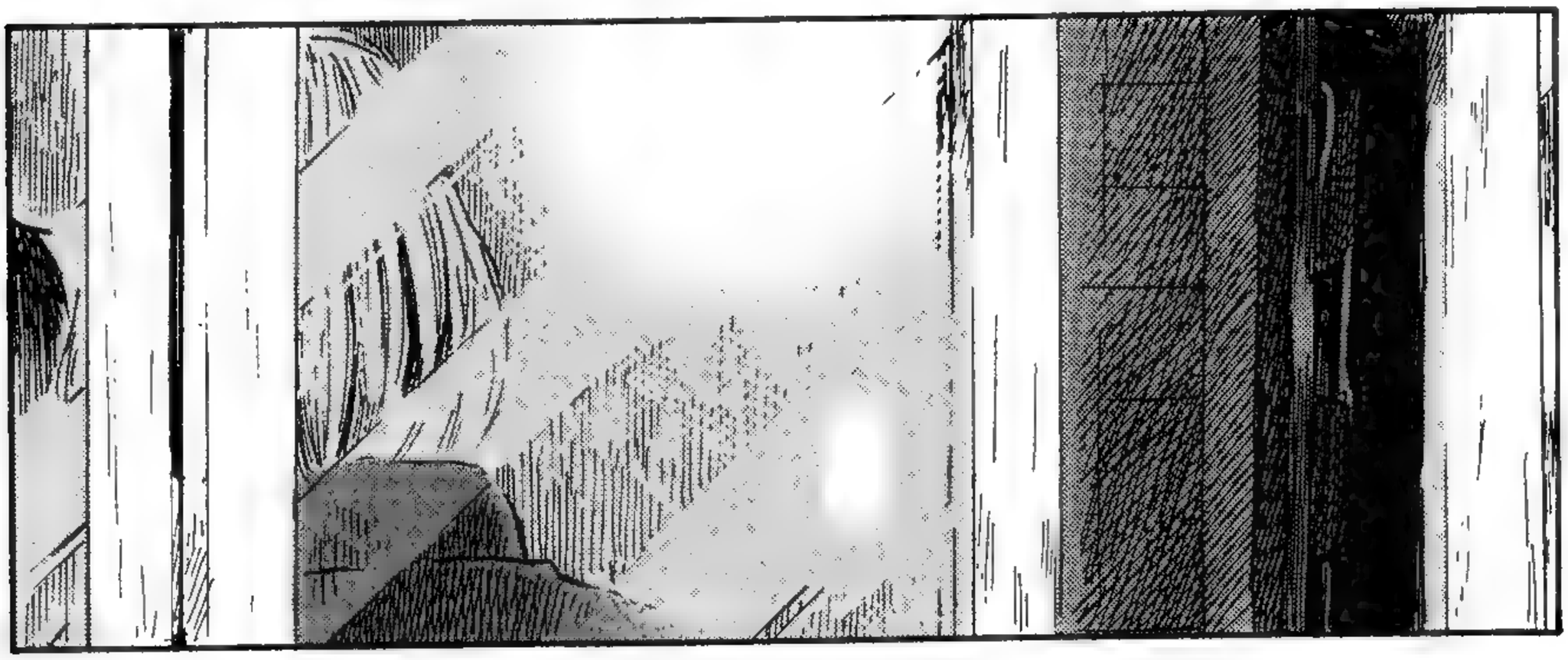



LET'S GO, TOKIWA.

ガシッ
DAGLE
ガシッ
DAGLE
ガシッ
DAGLE

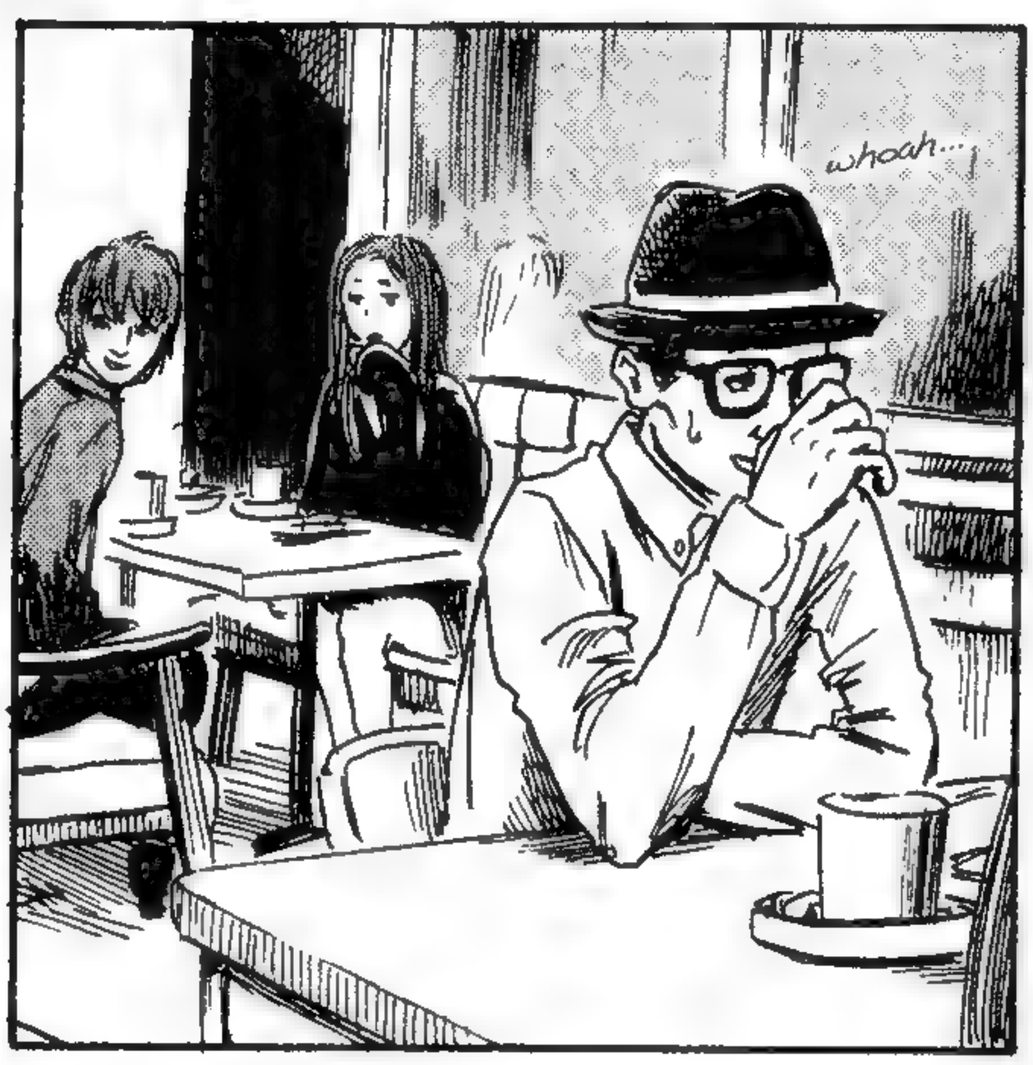
...KOJI.


GOOD BYE.
THANK YOU.



SLAM

...HEY, BOSS.


whoah...!

SURE ...

...

CAN I GO ON MY BREAK, NOW?

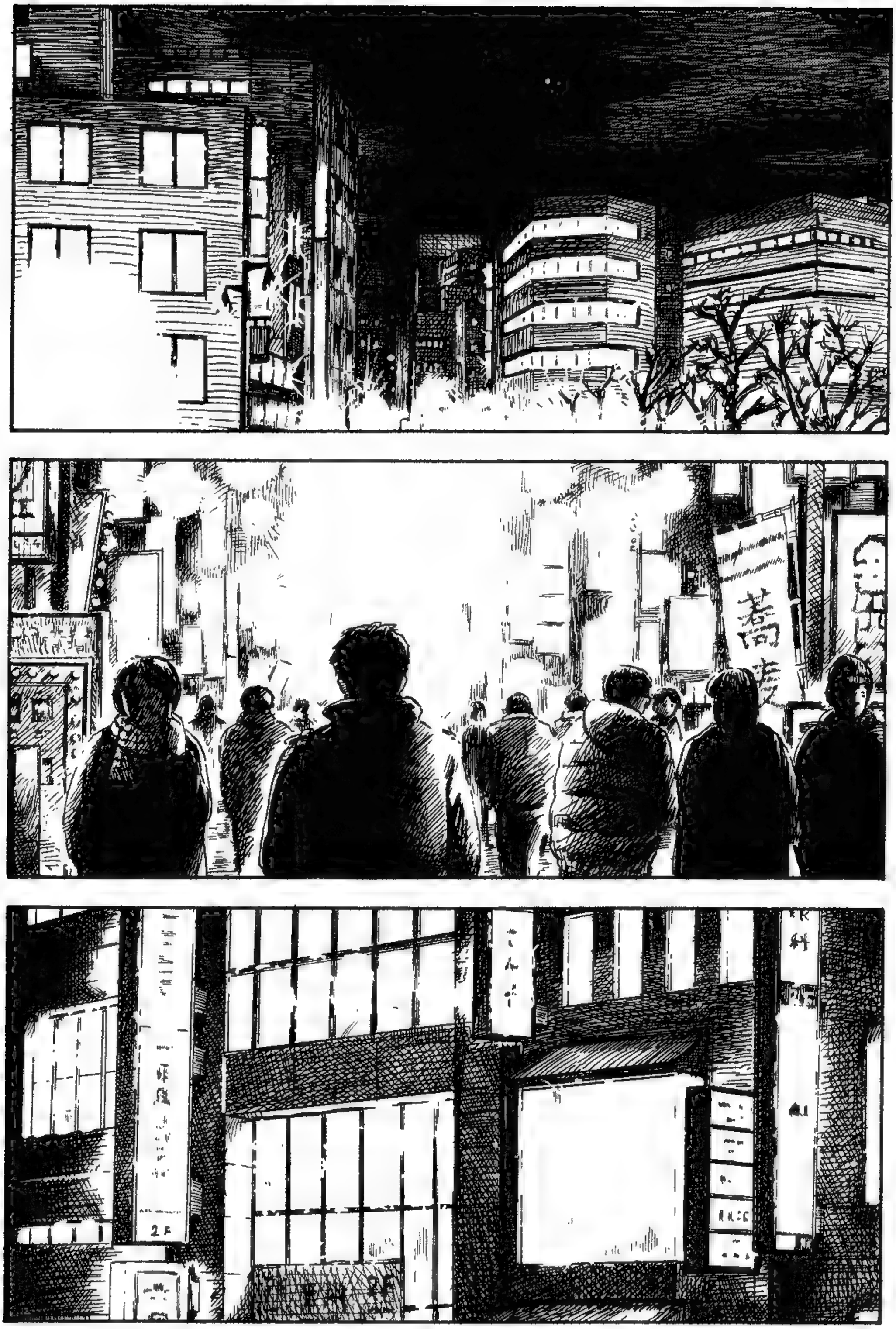
I'VE NEVER SEEN AVA LOOK LIKE THAT BEFORE. HA HA...

HA HA

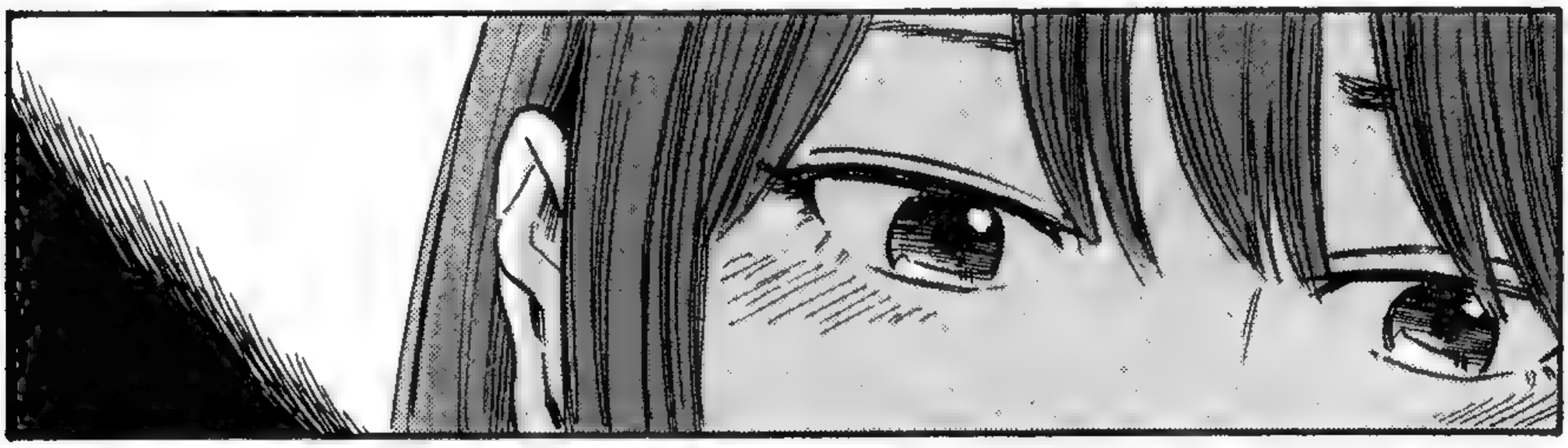
I'VE...

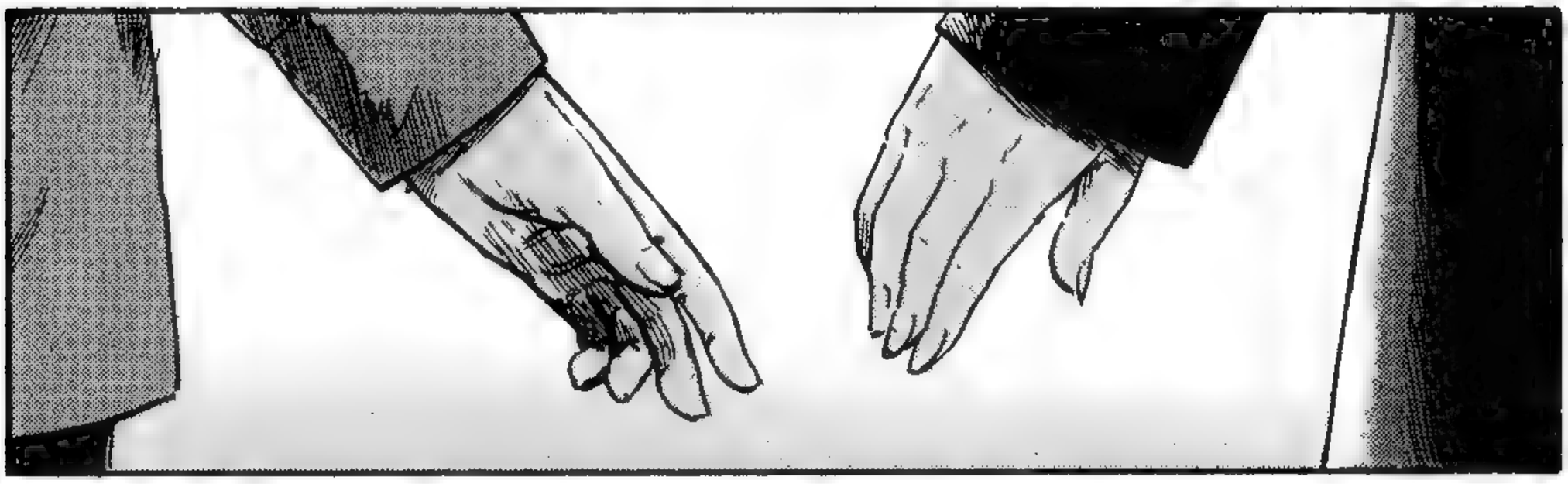
PAT ポン

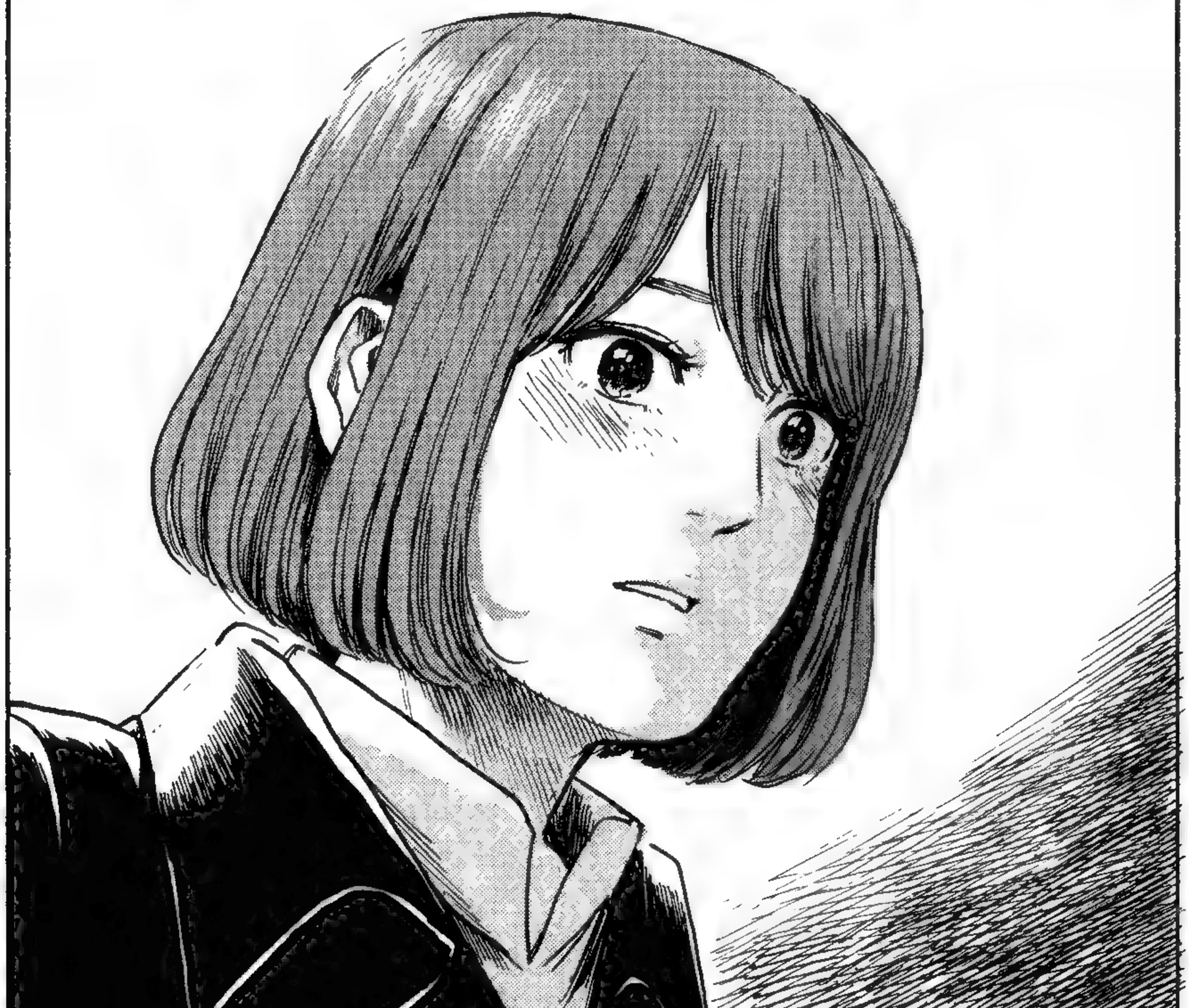
HA HA HA



斜め横







HEH
...

HEH
HEH
HEH
...

PFF

NYA
HA
HA
HA

HA
HA

HEE
HEE

HA

HEH...

NK...

HAH... UH...

NKK...

PHEW

NM...

HEH...

AH
...

SO
WARM
...

KA-SS

OW!

Chapter 46: O Fountain of Eternal Youth

ゴー

ROAR

ROAR

ROAR

ROAR

TAKAO, LUNCH IS READY!

AH HAHA HAHA HA

NO FREAKIN' WAY!

New Year

ガサ！ SHUFF

I'M FINE.

THANKS FOR LUNCH.

TA-KAO.

DO YOU WANT SOME MOCHI ?

SLRP

OUT WHERE?

GOING OUT FOR A BIT.

I'M, UH...

MM.

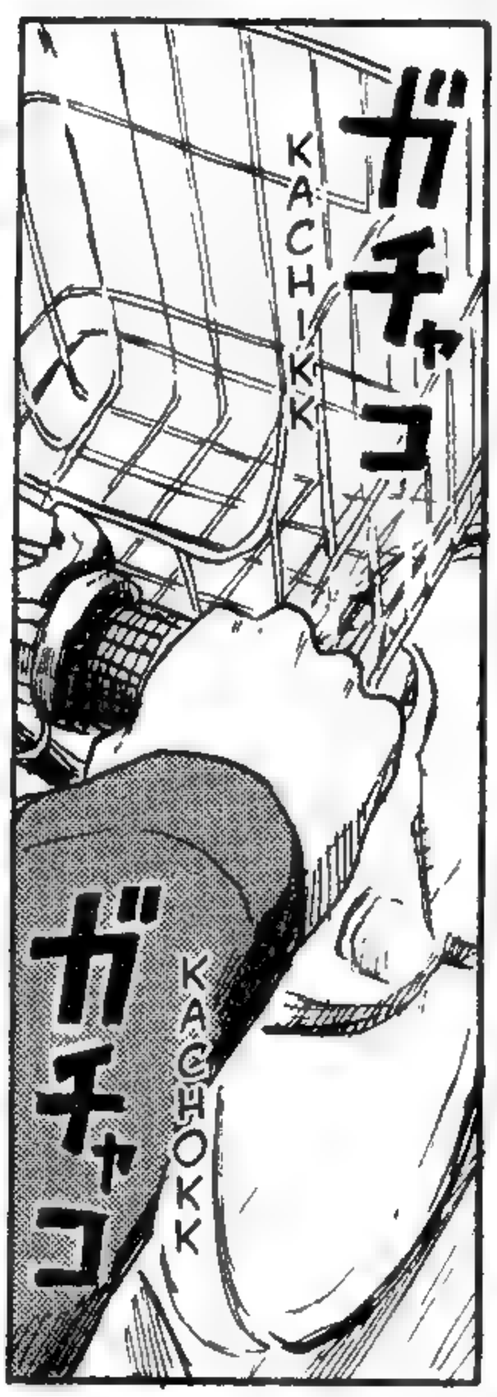
JUST OUT.

TAKE CARE.

OKAY.

ガチャコ KACHOKK

ガチャコ KACHKK



ガチャコ KACHIKK

ガチャコ KACHOKK

ガチャコ KACHIKK

ガチャコ KACHOKK

ガチャコ KACHIKK

ガチャコ KACHOKK

ガチャコ KACHIKK

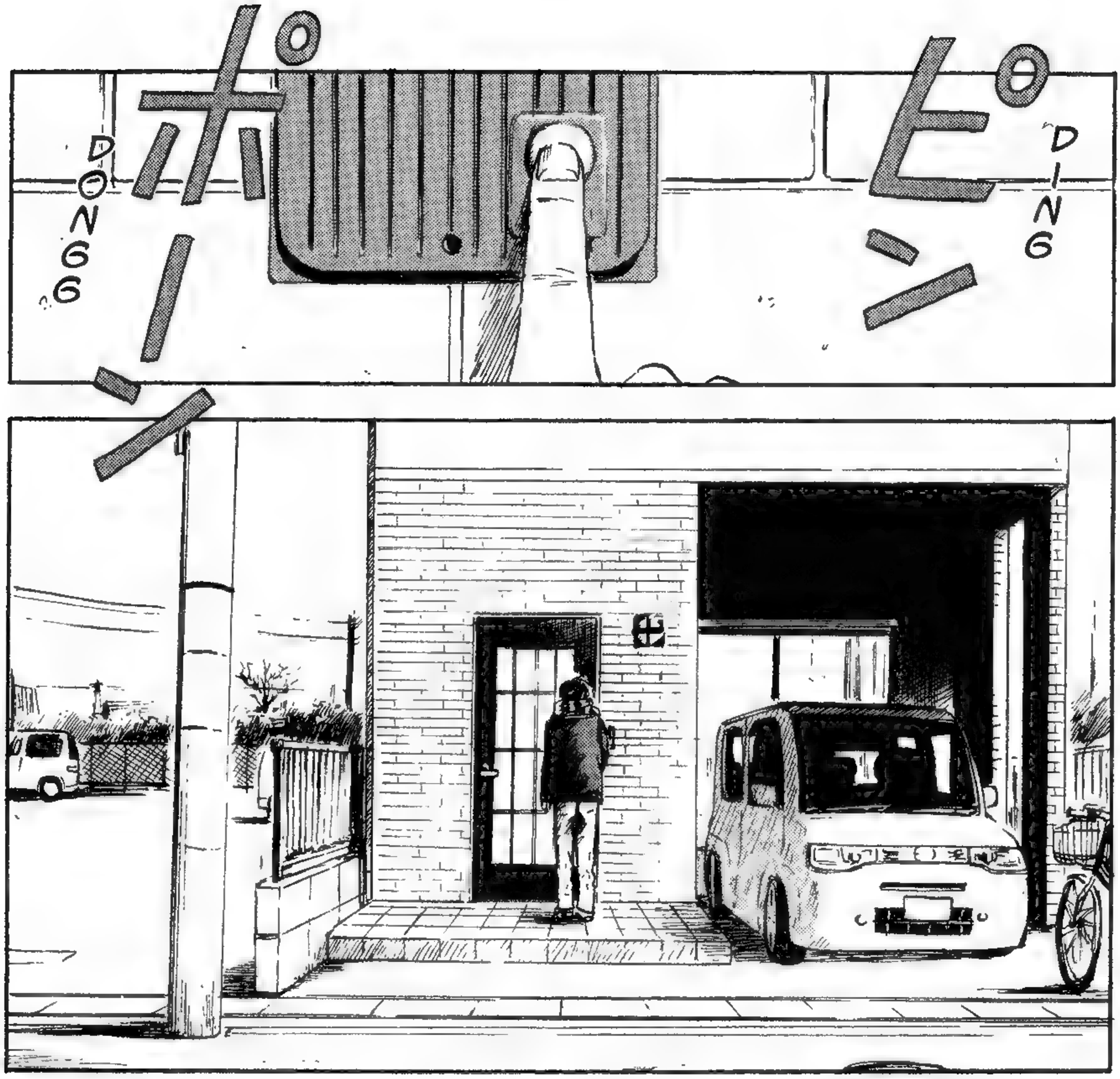
ガチャコ KACHOKK

ガチャコ KACHIKK

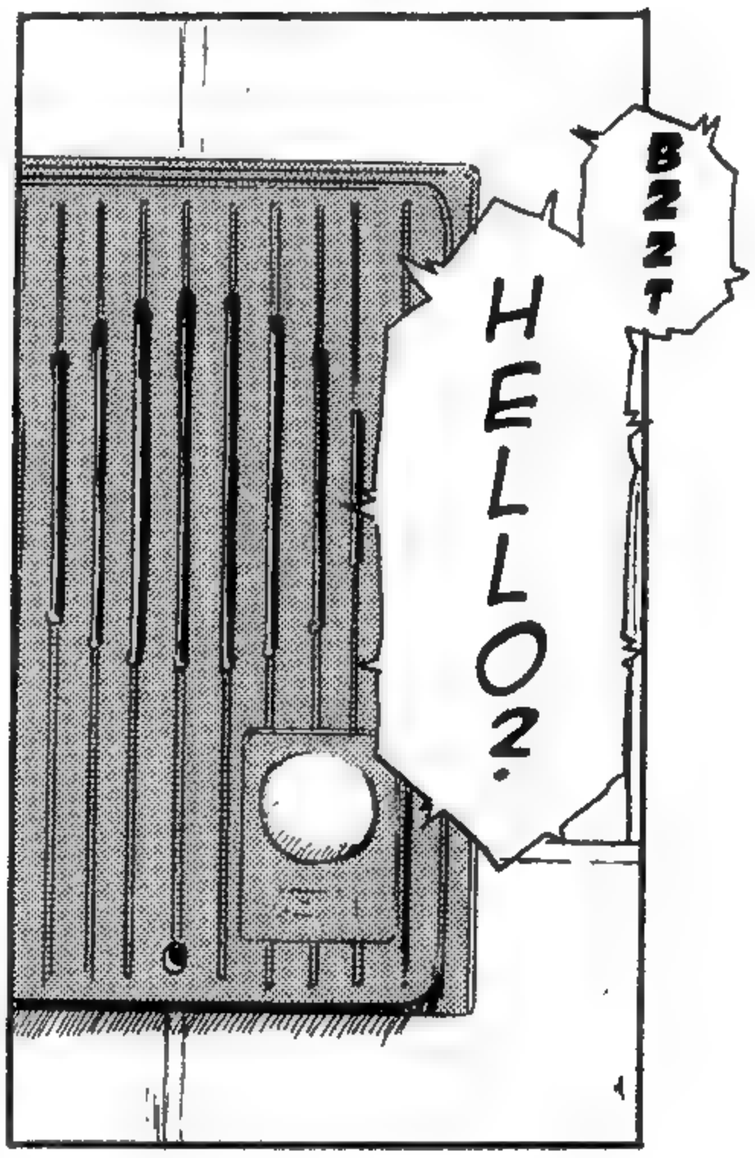
ガチャコ KACHOKK

ガチャコ KACHIKK

ガチャコ KACHOKK


DONG
DONG
DING

AH, HELLO, THIS IS KASUGA.
OH, JUST A SECOND!


BZZT
HELLO?

C'MON IN, C'MON IN!

HEY, MAN!

KACHIK

PARDON THE INTRUSION ...

UM...

WEL-COME!

OH ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU TOO!

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

HUH? OH...

AYA'S IN THE BATHROOM RIGHT NOW.

C'MON, HAVE A SEAT, KASUGA.

MUMBLE ボソ

YOU PIC-TURED IT JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU.

HM ?

じ～っ STARE

ゴバッ！
FLUSH!
バタン
BTAM

...HUH?

YOU WERE HERE?

OH...

YUP.

CUT IT OUT!

WHAT IS IT? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING WEIRD TO HIM AGAIN, BROTHER?

AM I RIGHT?

HEH HEH HEH

COME WITH ME, KASUGA.

NOW.

...

TAKE YOUR TIME.

TUP TUP TUP TUP

UM

OKAY. SEE YOU ALL THEN ...

ガチャ
KACHIK

JUST SIT ANY-WHERE.

THE NOVEL?

HOW'S IT GOING?

I GUESS.

...
OKAY,

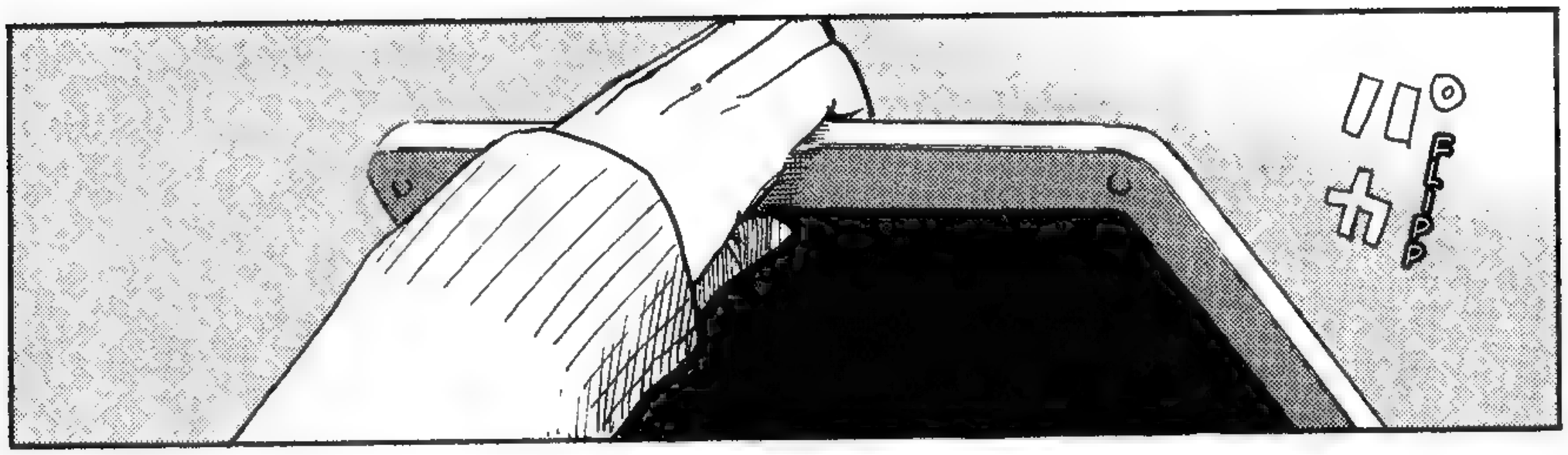
I STILL CAN'T READ IT ?

YEAH ?

I JUST NEED TO GET TO A GOOD STOPPING POINT.

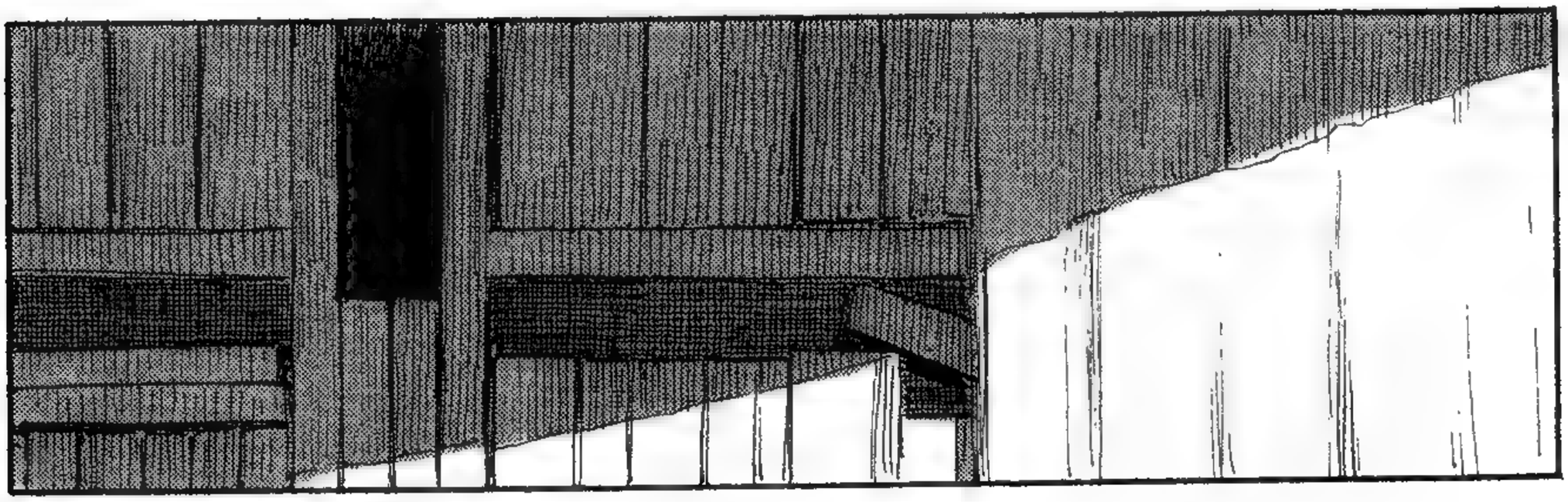
NOT YET.

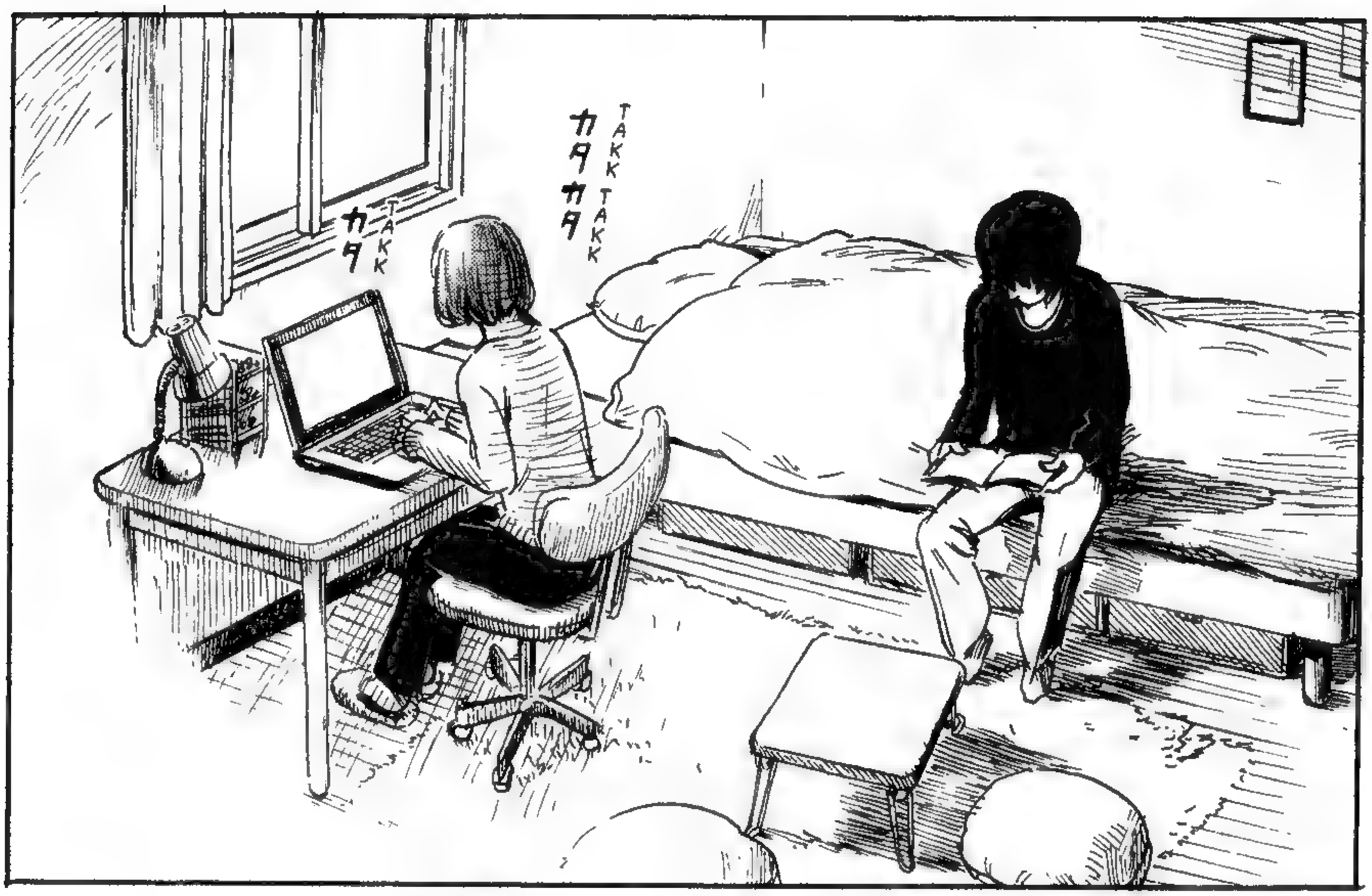
GOT IT.

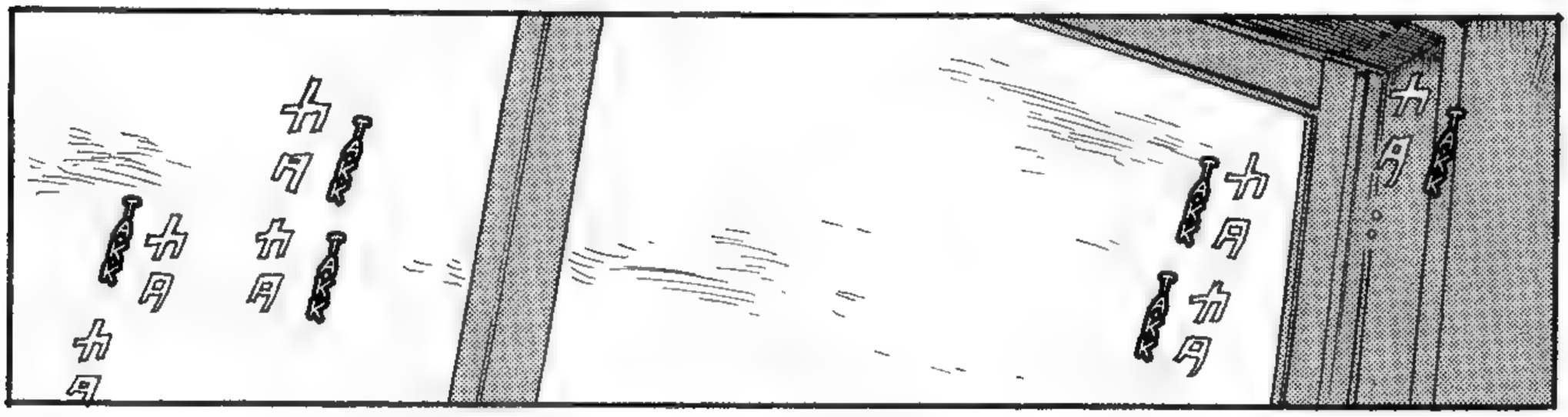


SURE.
I'M GONNA WRITE.
SO...

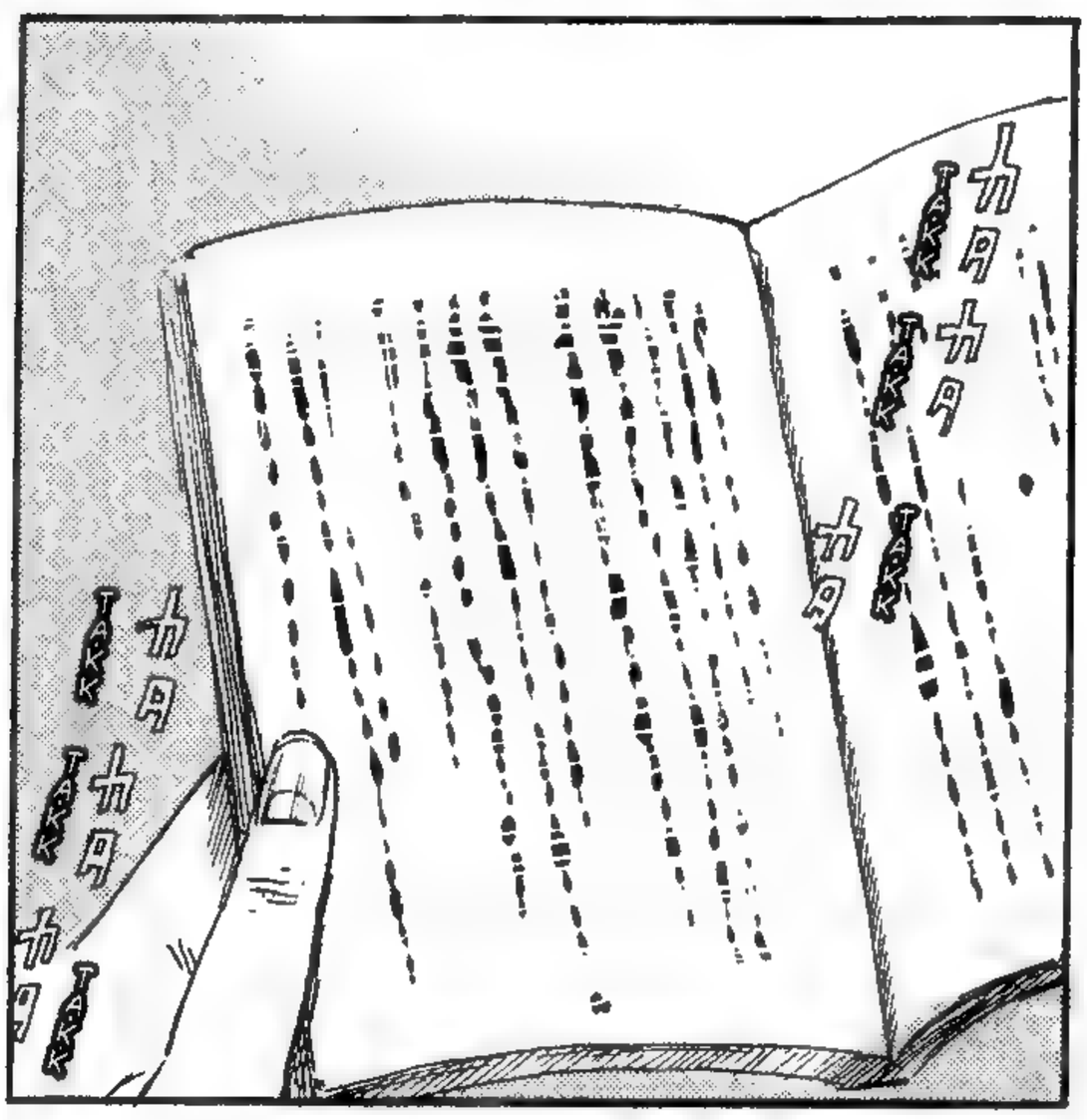
ALL RIGHT!



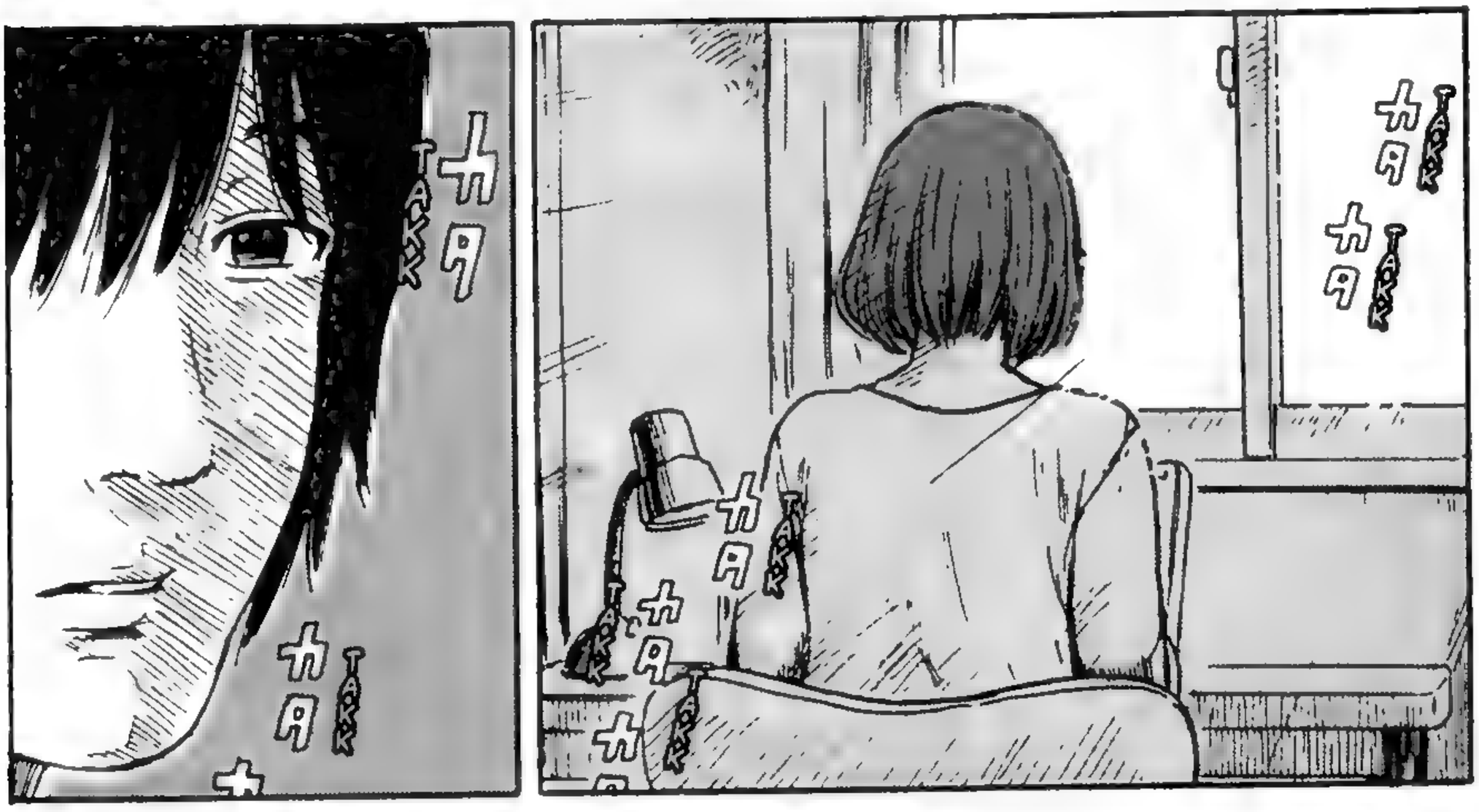

カタカタ TAKK TAKK
カタカタ TAKK TAKK

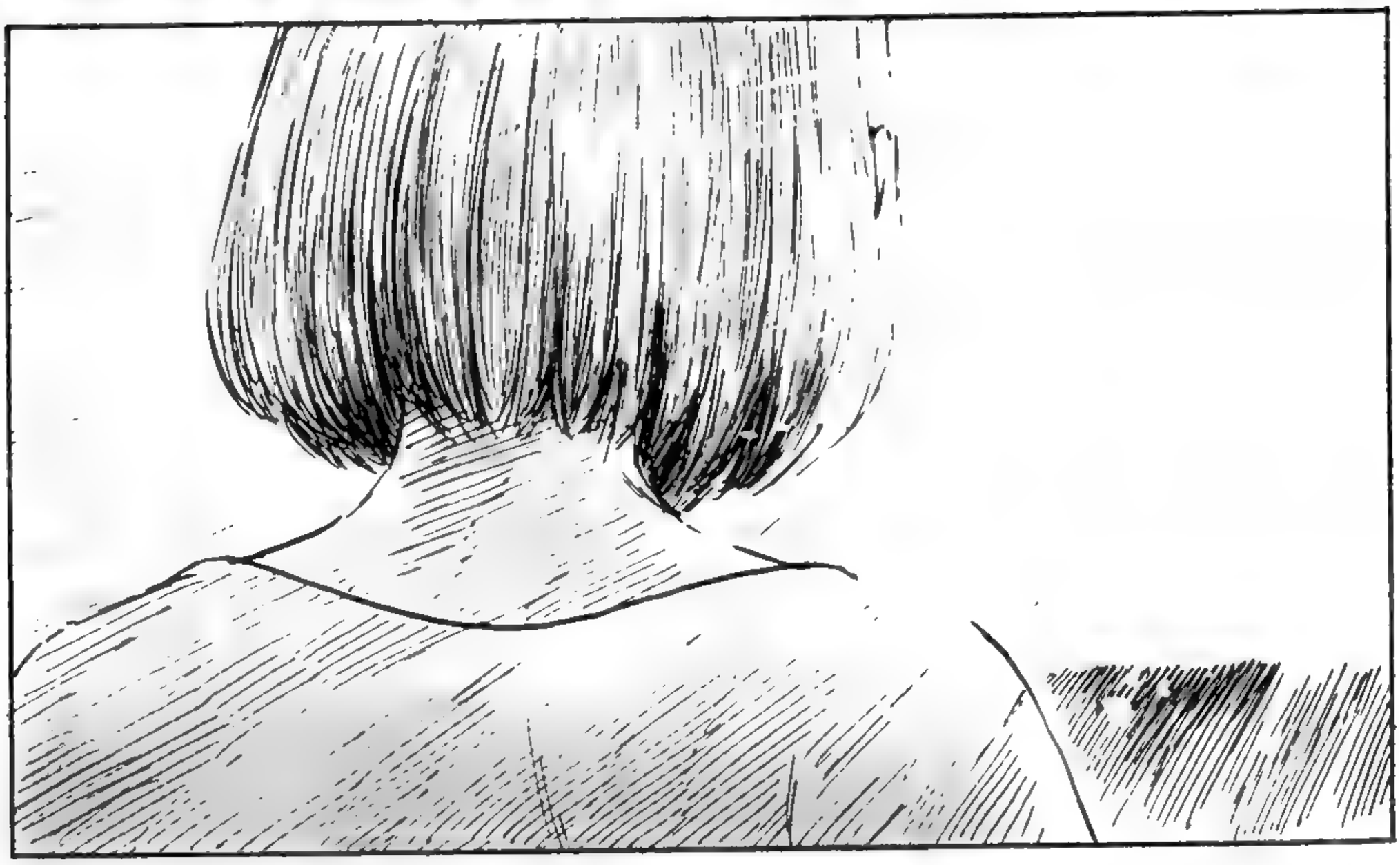

カタカタ TAKK

カタカタ TAKK


カタカタ TAKK

カタカタ


カタカタ
カタカタ



COME IN.

NOK NOK

HERE YOU GO!

TEE HEE

YOU TWO ENJOY YOUR-SELVES.

OH... THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

THANKS, MOM.

WHEW.

GUESS I'LL HAVE SOME, TOO.

KACHLOK

THANKS FOR THE FOOD.

THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.

MM.

ゴ"

ROAR

MM.

'SH YUMMY.

ROAR

WANT TO GO FOR A WALK?

THE WEATH-ER'S SO NICE AND ALL.

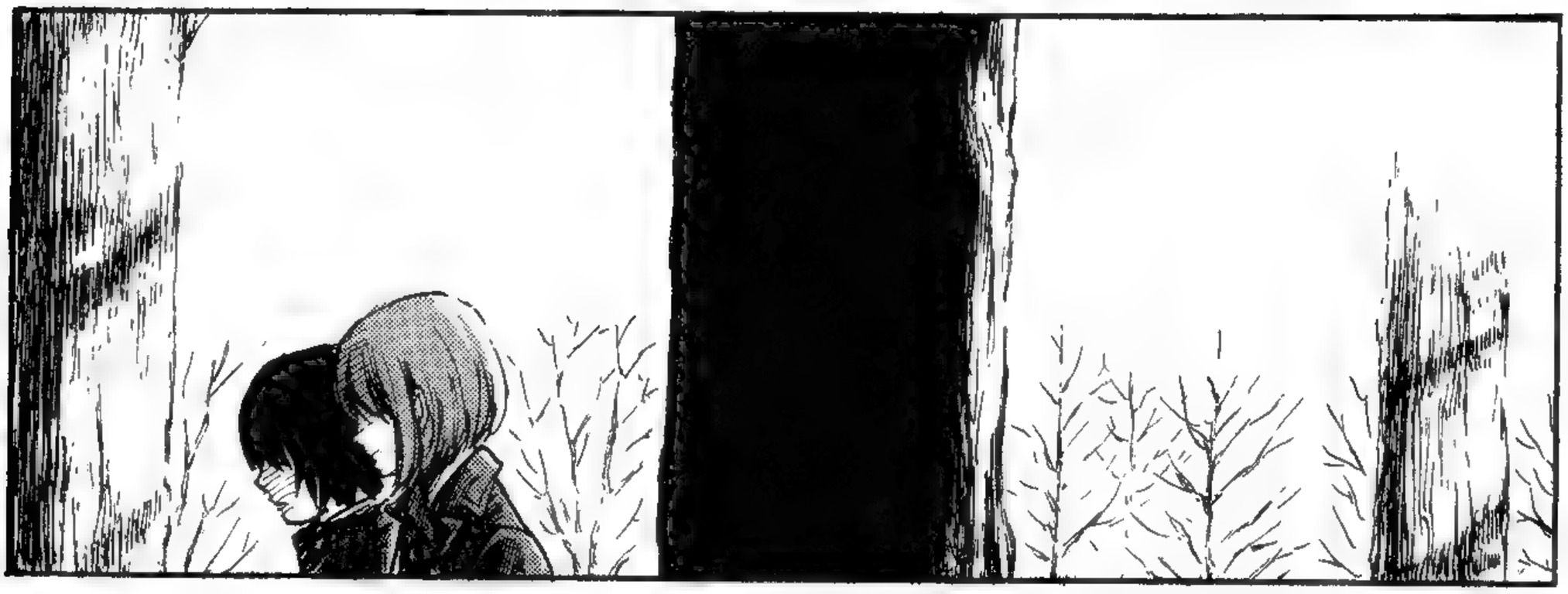
SIP

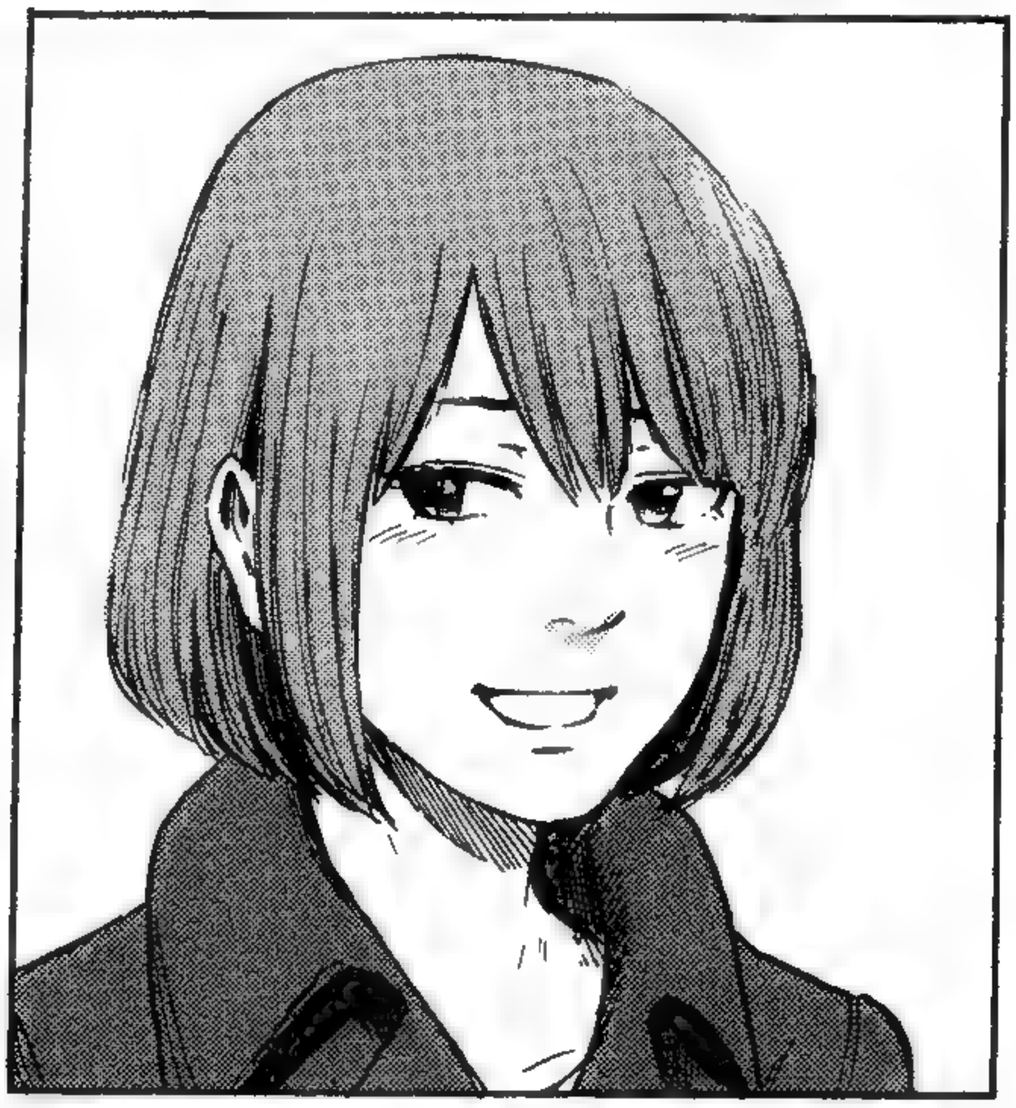
HEY, KASUGA.

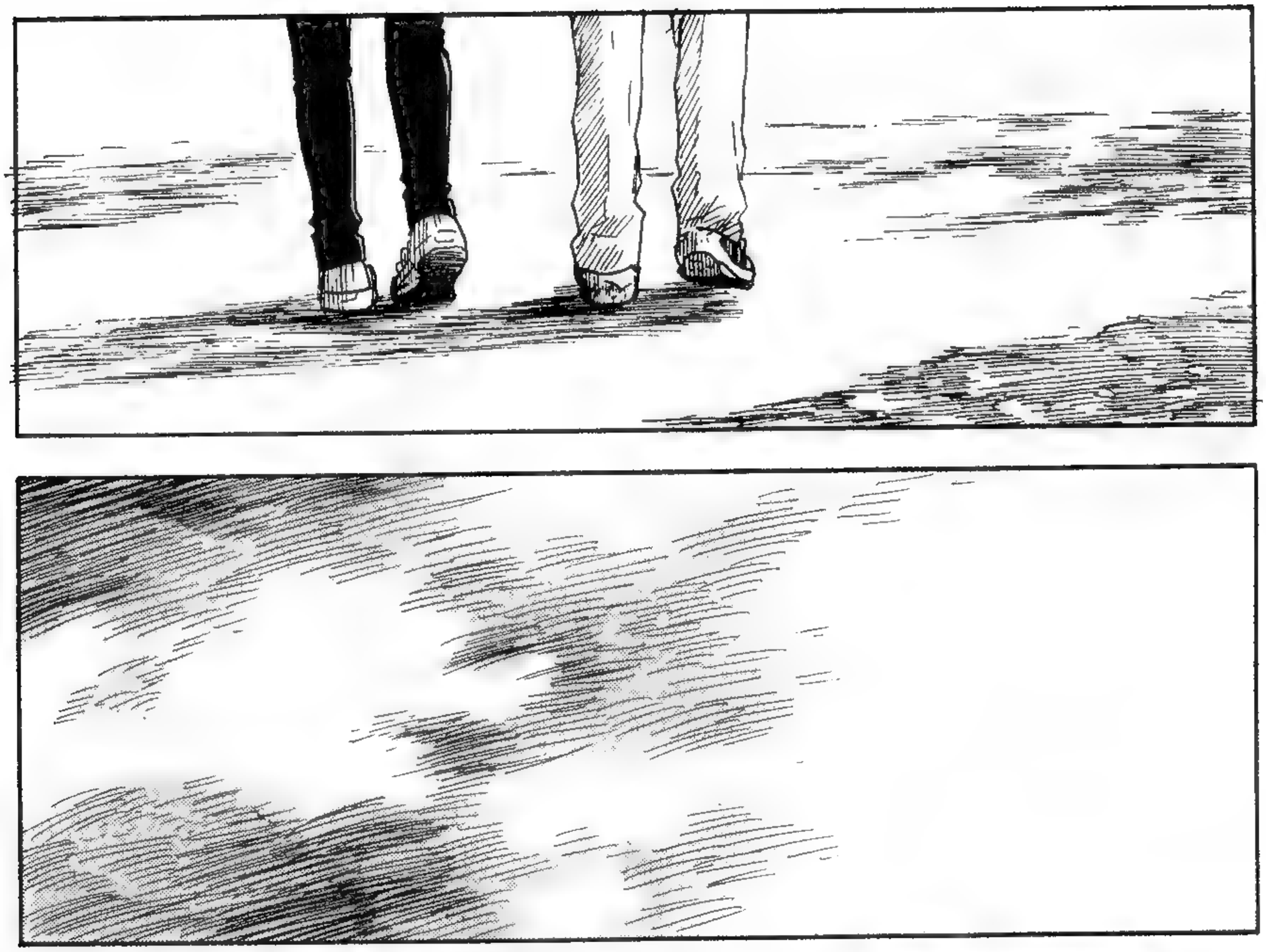
UM, YOU DON'T NEED TO KEEP WRITING?

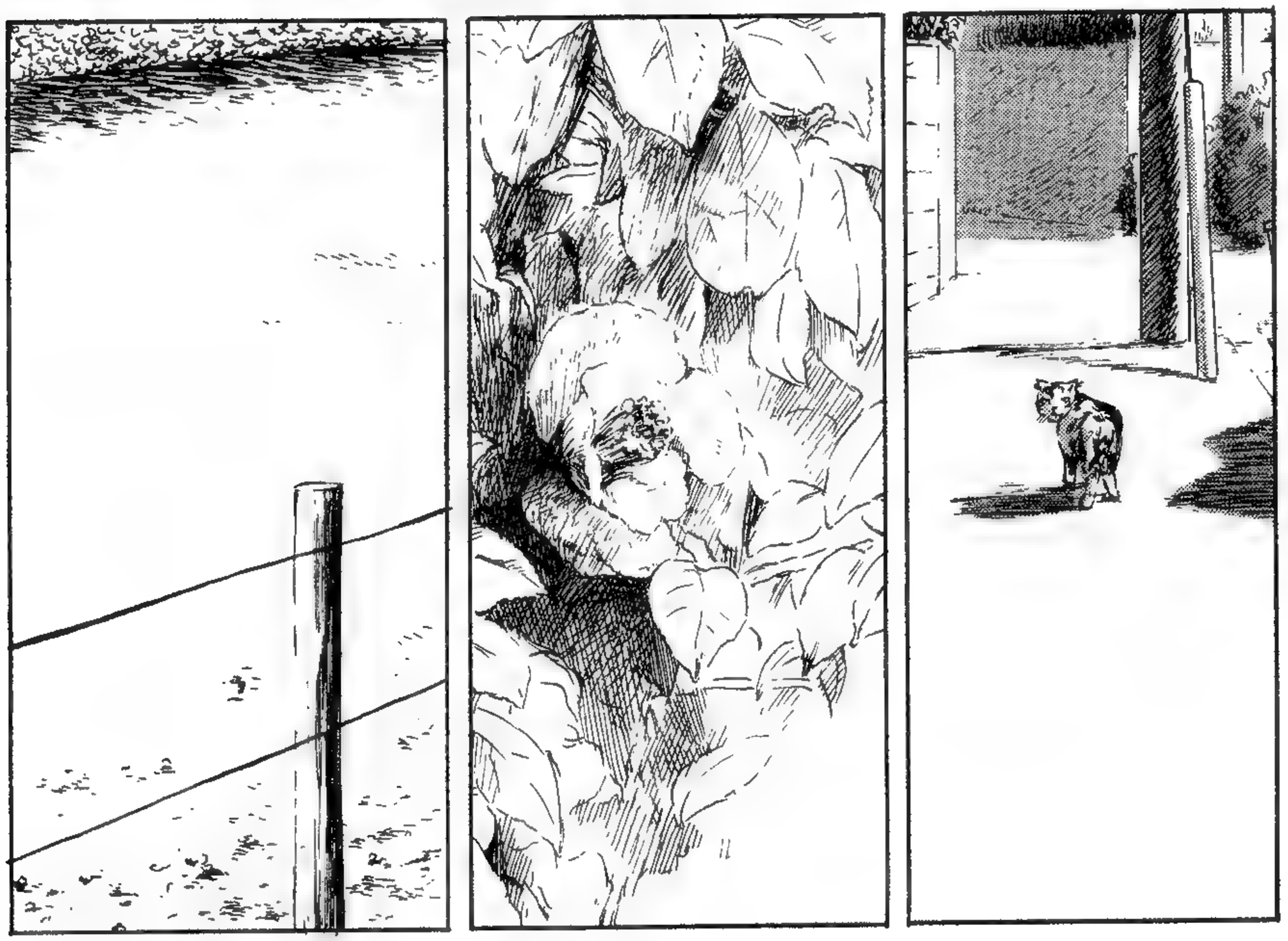
JUST A LITTLE BREAK, THAT'S ALL.

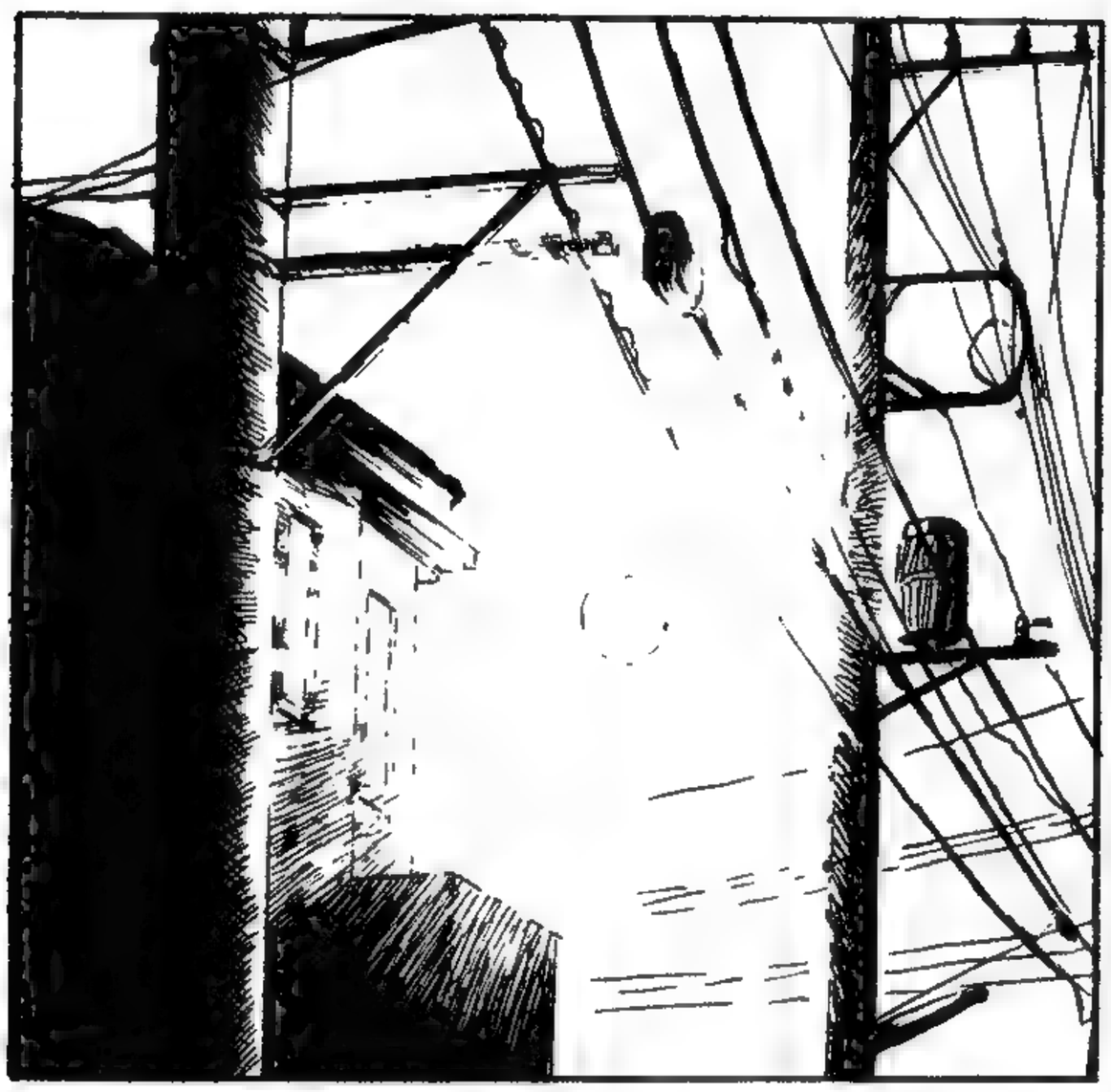
YES
?

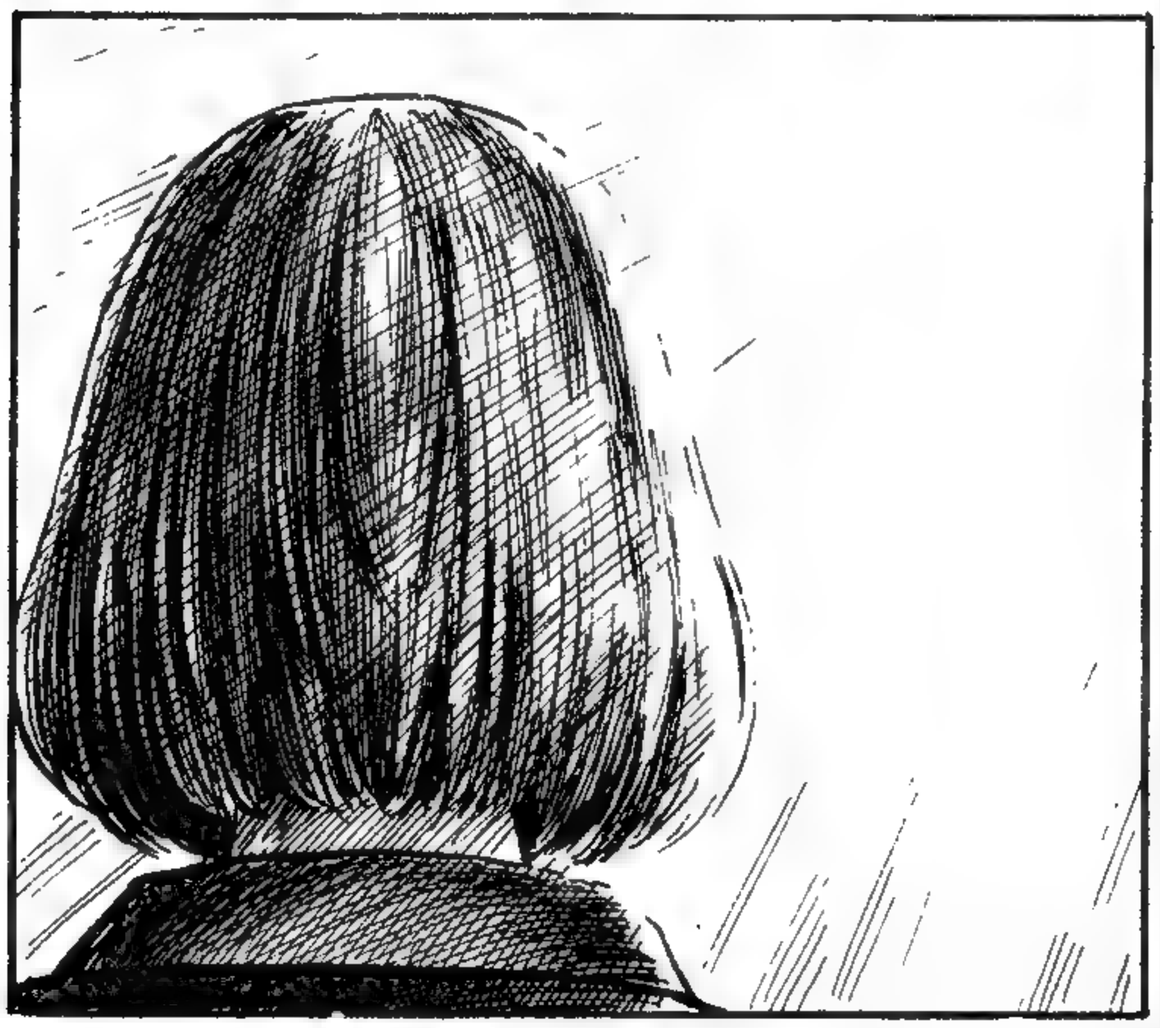


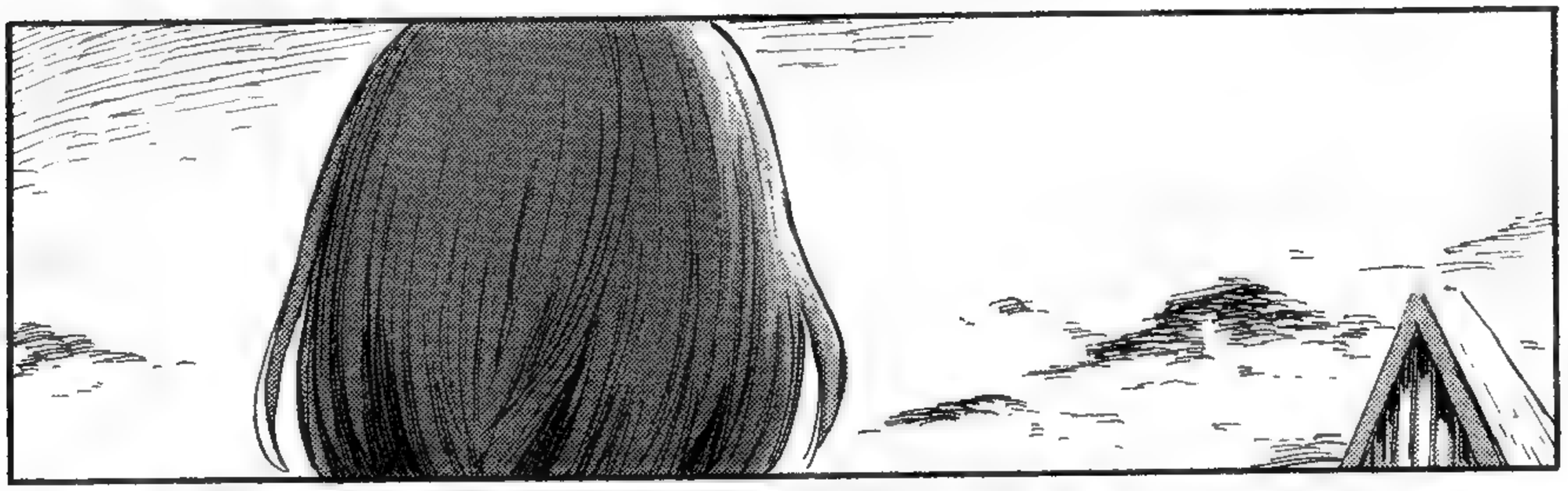












PRETTY, ISN'T IT?

IT IS ...

YEAH.

NFFF
...
WLIH
UH
HNG...

WHAT'S WRONG, KASUGA?
ARE YOU IN PAIN OR...
HUH?!

HAH
I...
DUNNO WHY, BUT TEARS JUST...
SORRY ...
HA HA

IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO BE SO HAPPY? JUST ME?
AM I SURE ABOUT THIS?

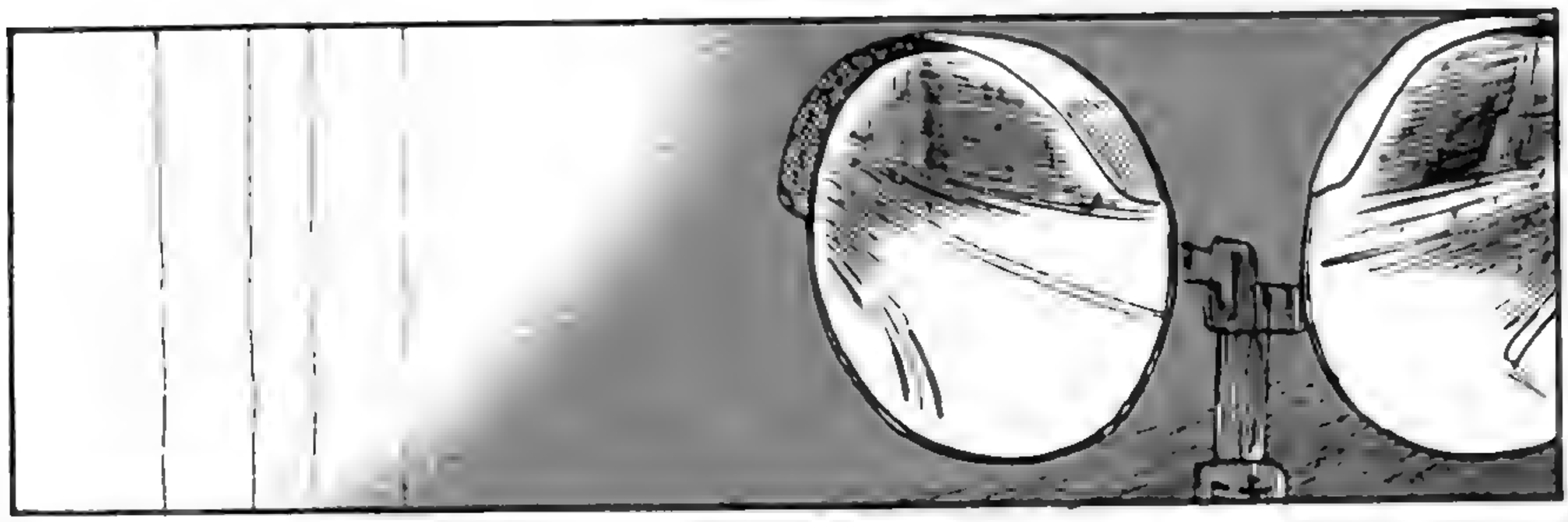
DON'T BE A CREEP.

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

HAPPY TOO, YOU KNOW.

I'M

...YUP.



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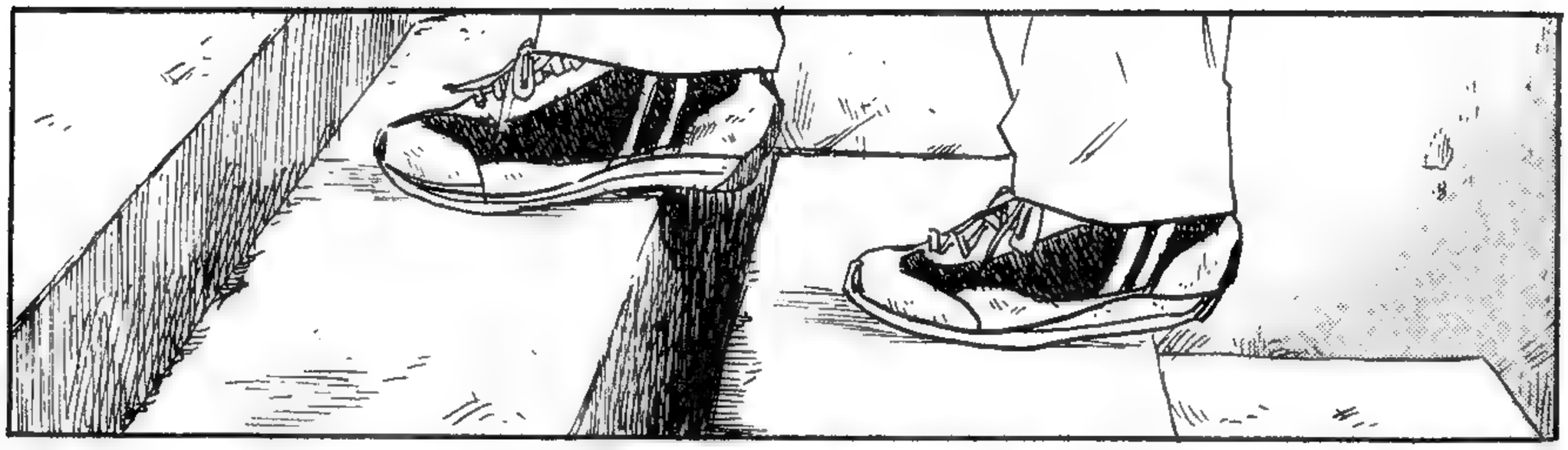

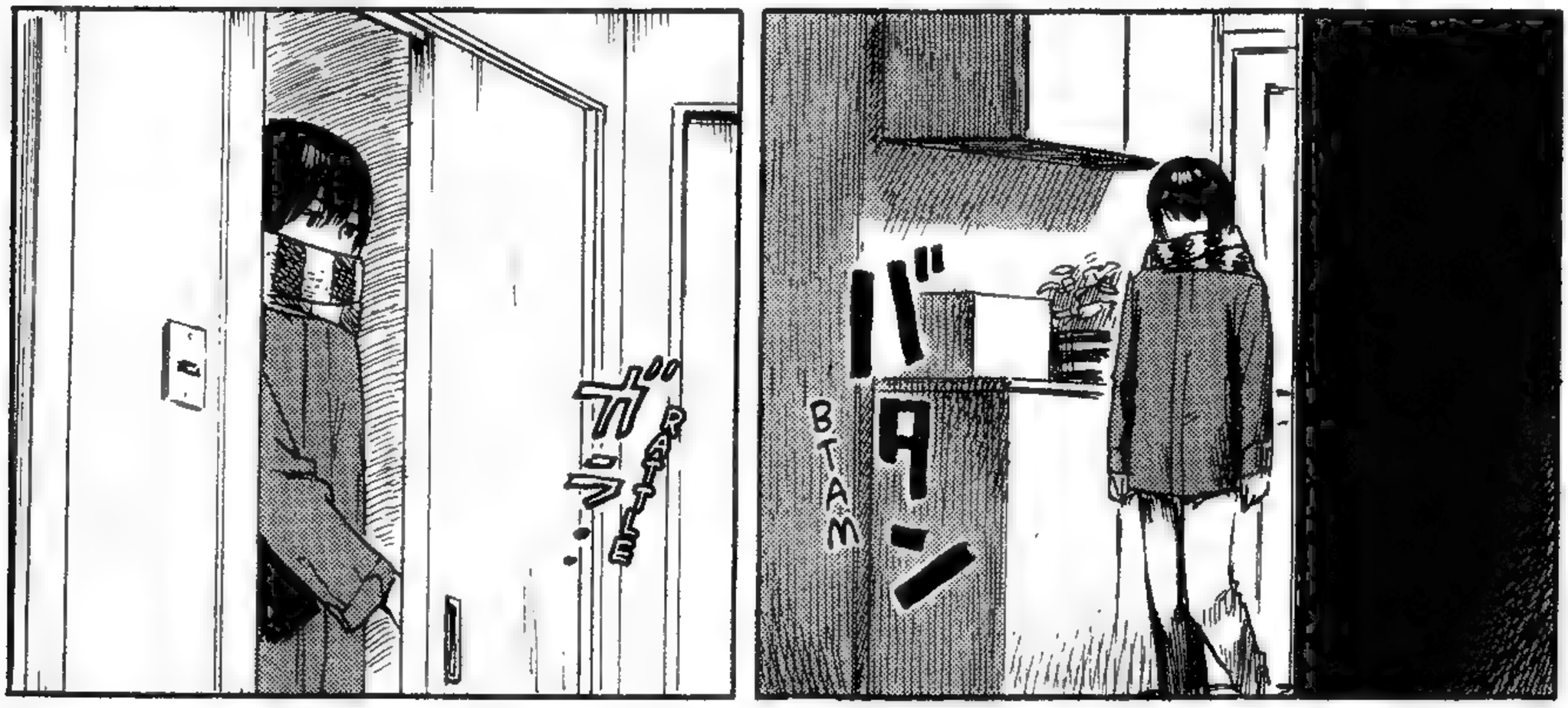
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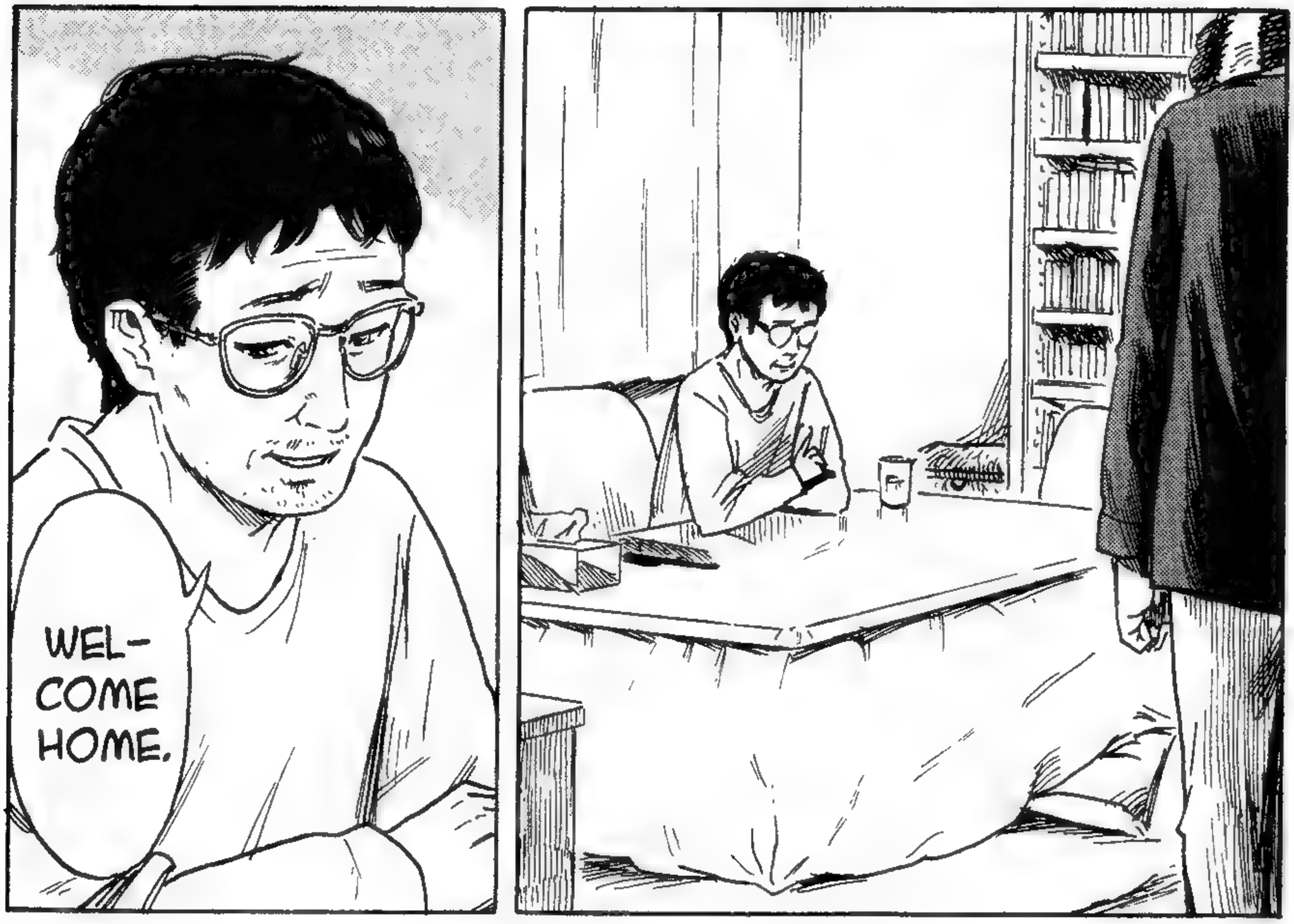
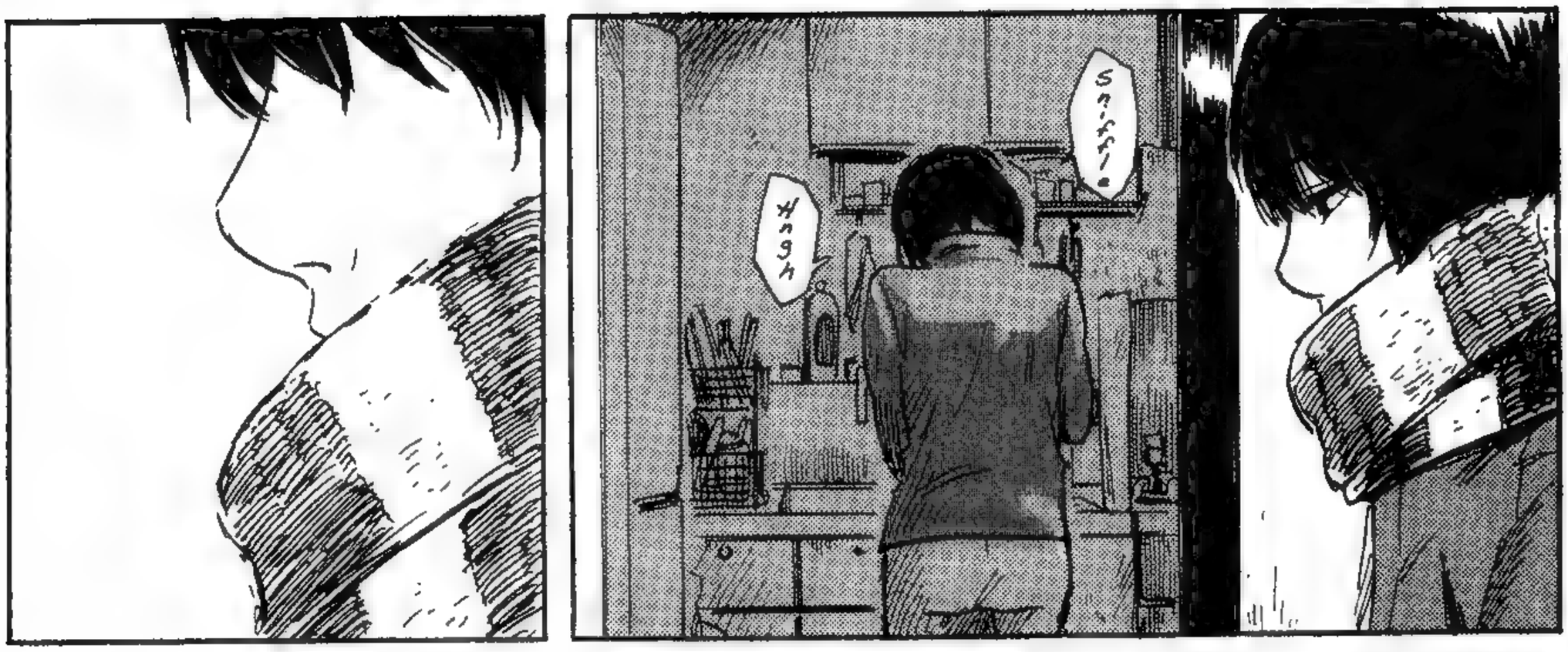
BTAM
バーン


WEL-
COME
HOME.


SIGH
SIGH

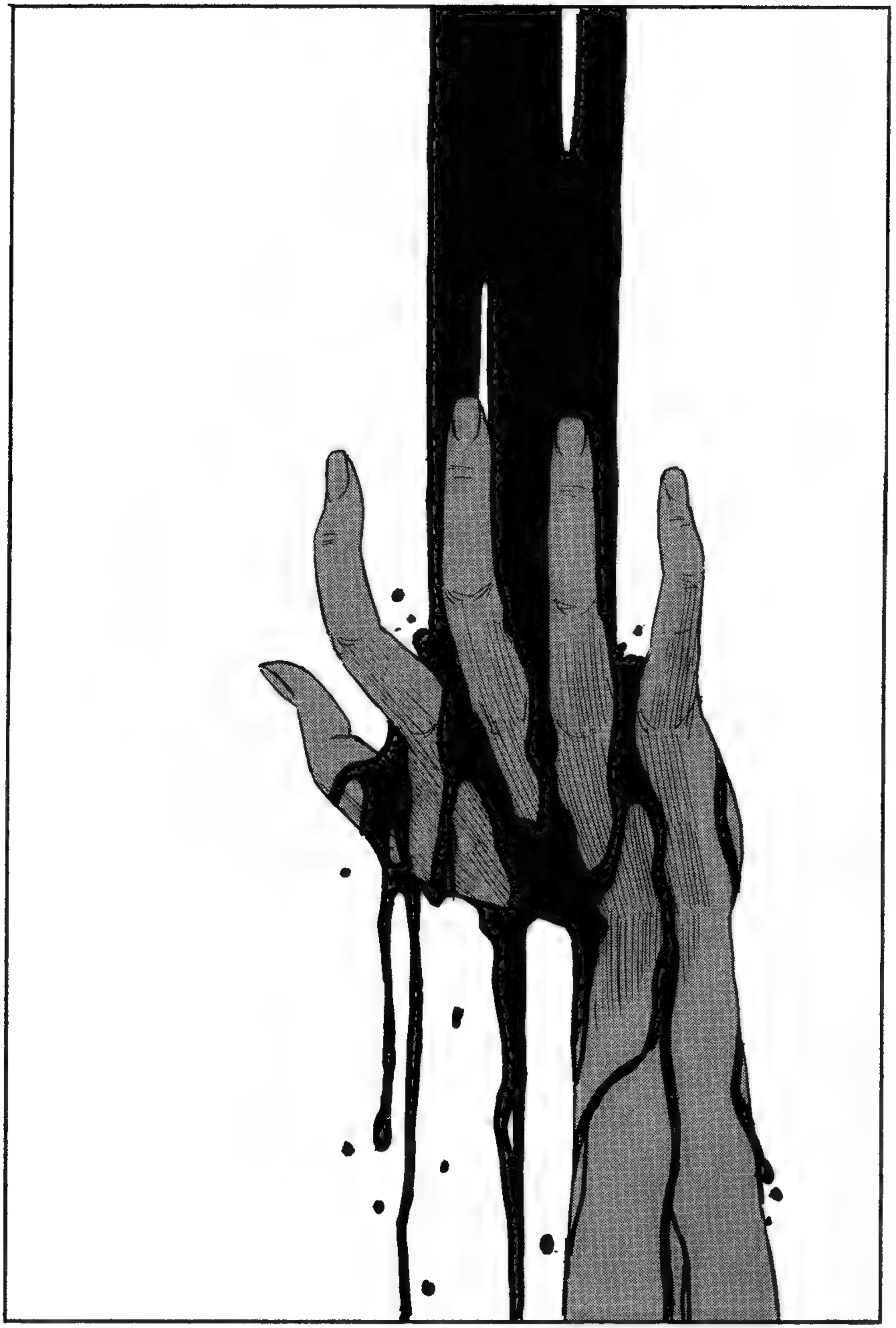
I'M GONNA GO BUY SOME CIGA-RETTES.
SIGH

WHAM

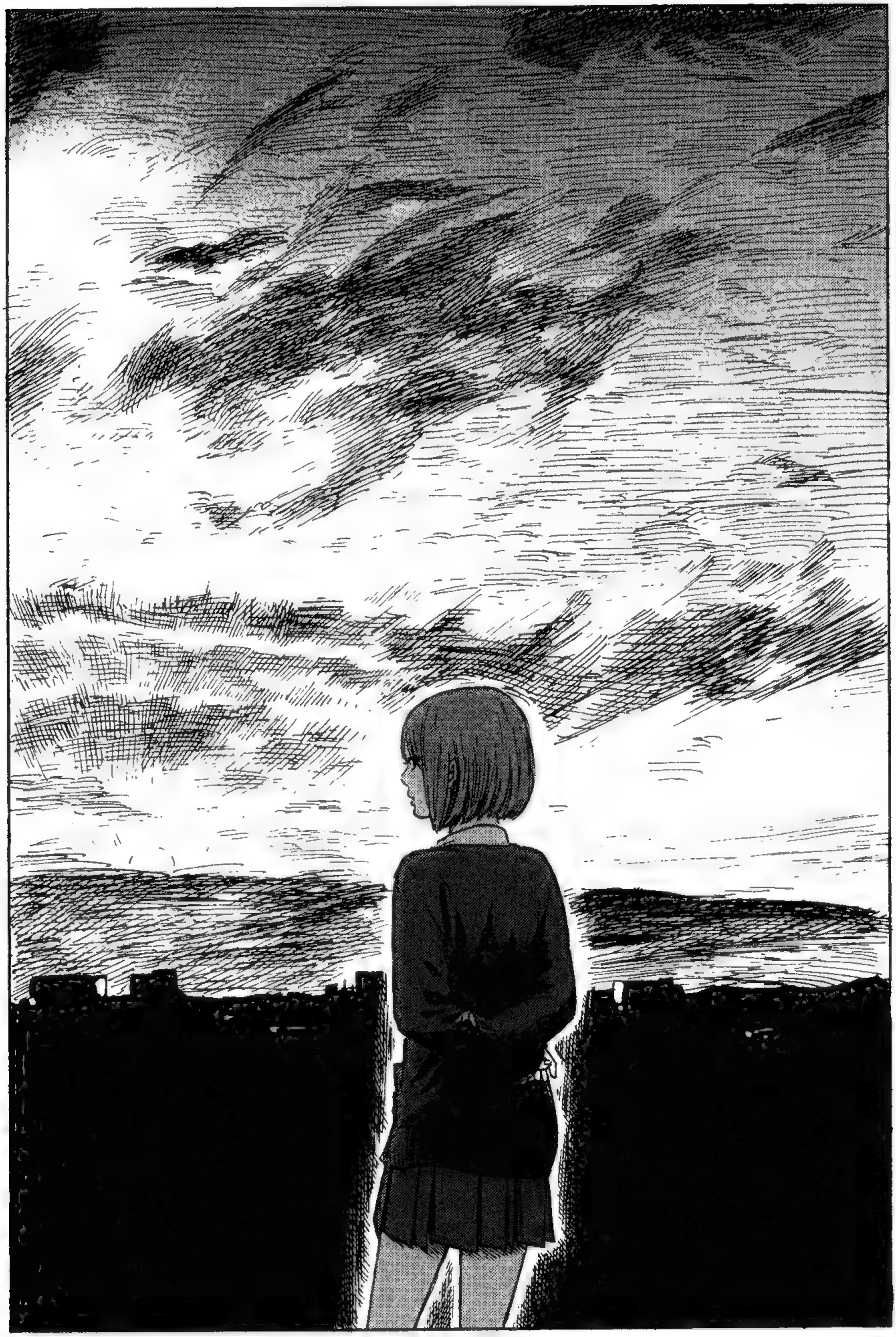
Mom!
Dad!

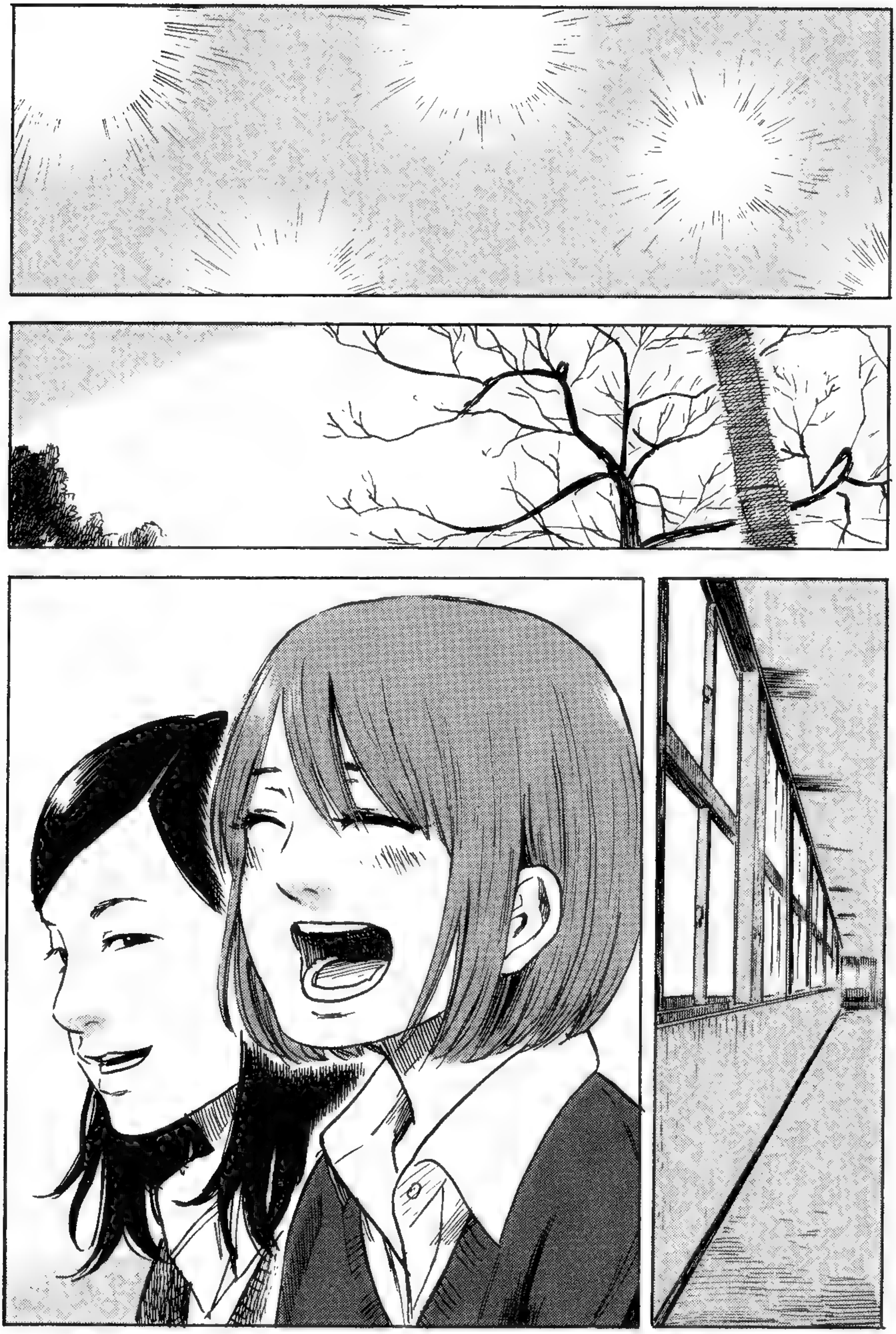
I'M HOME.

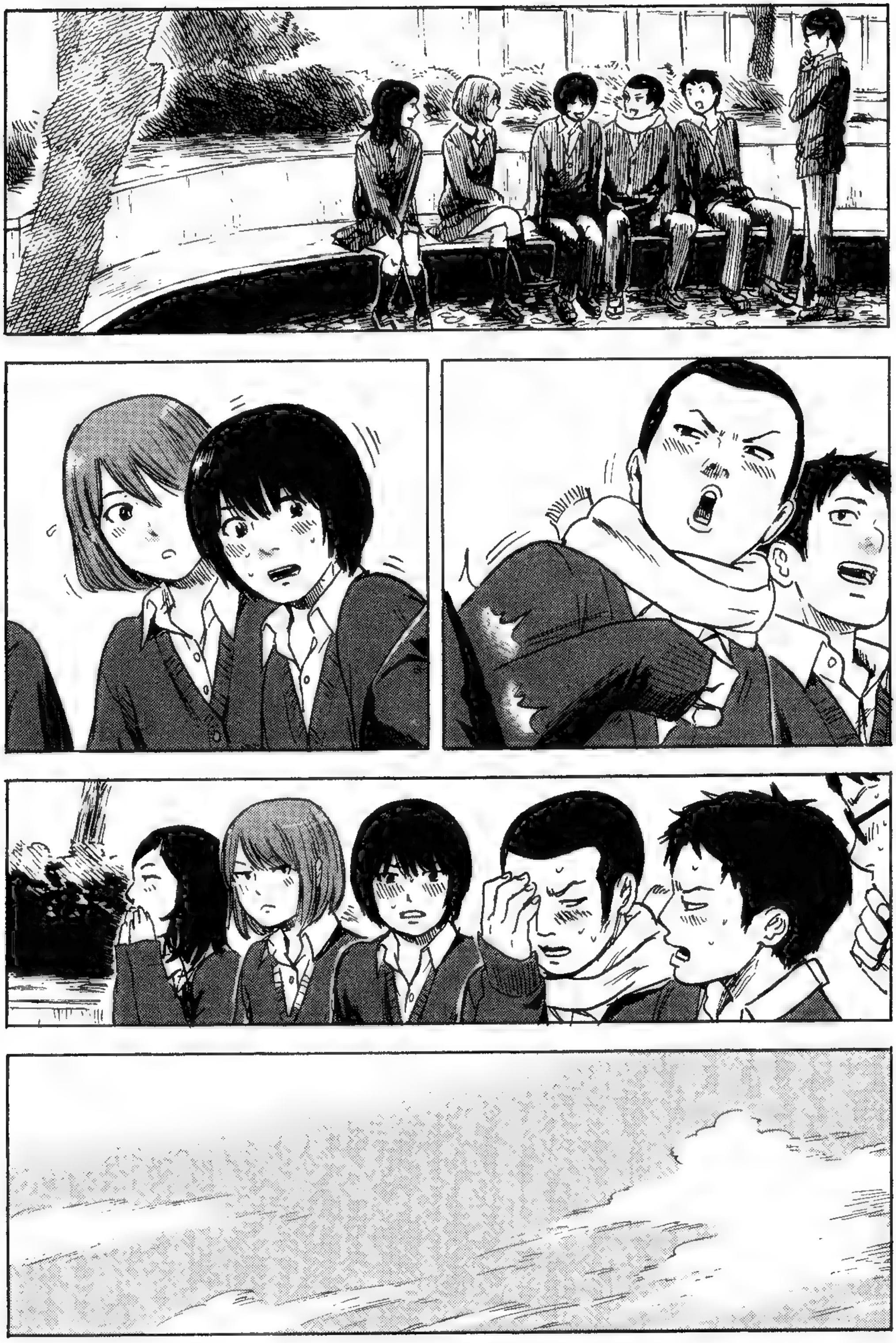
TAKAO
...
WEL-
COME
HOME.

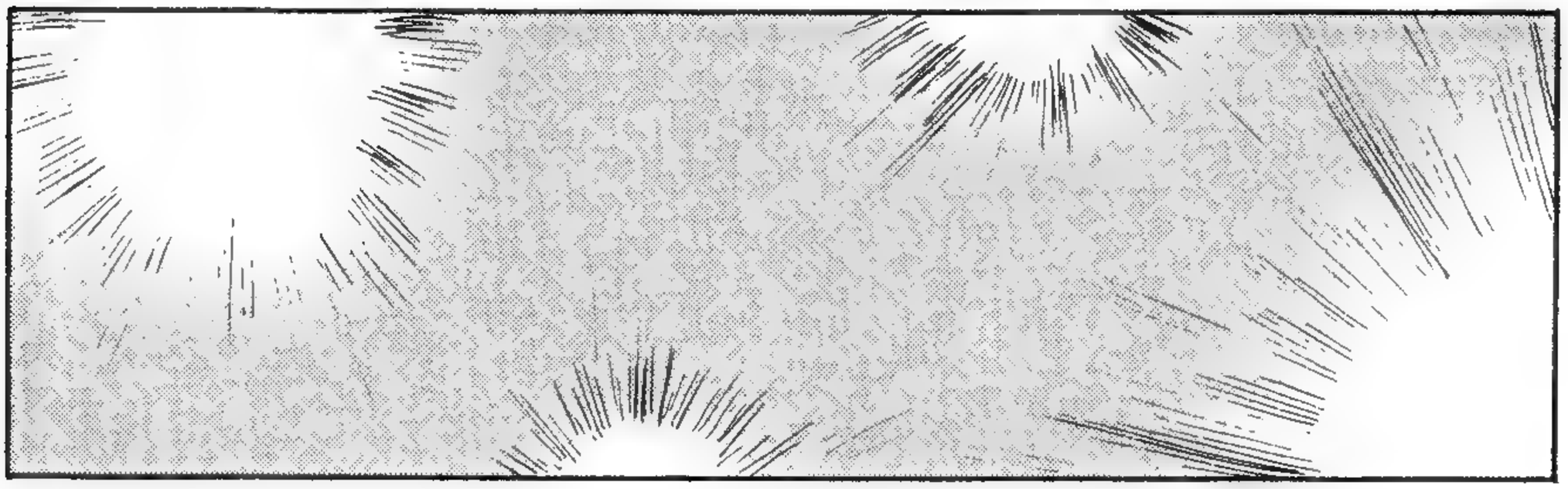


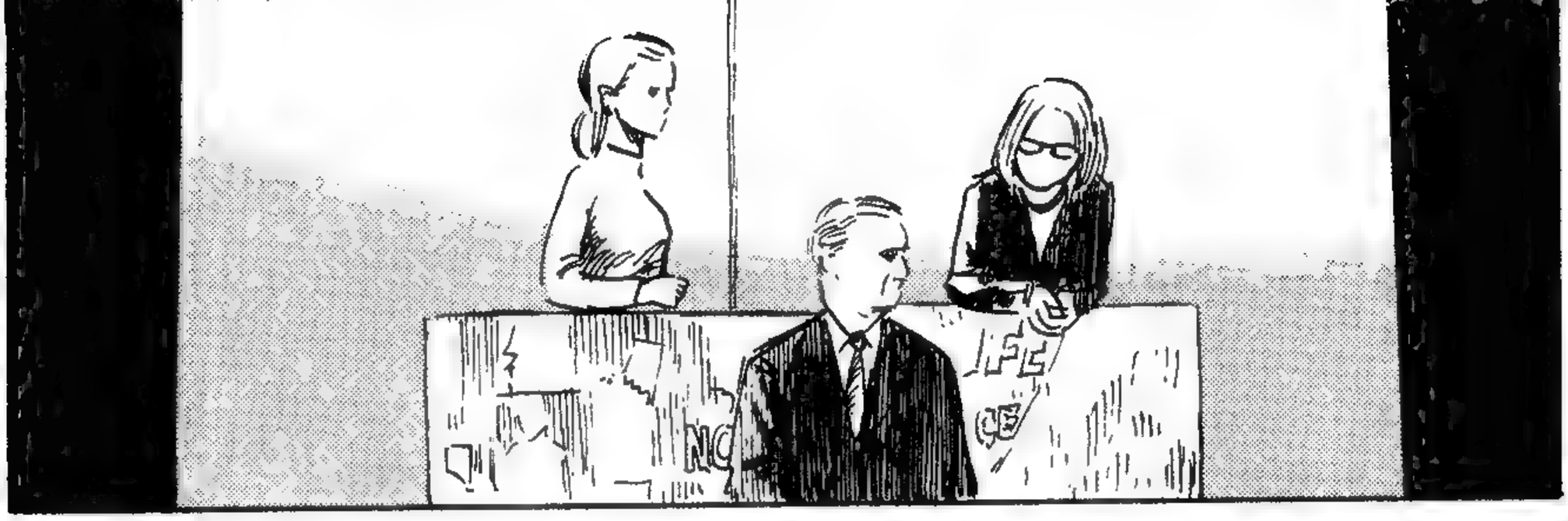
Chapter 47: Soon Homeward Now

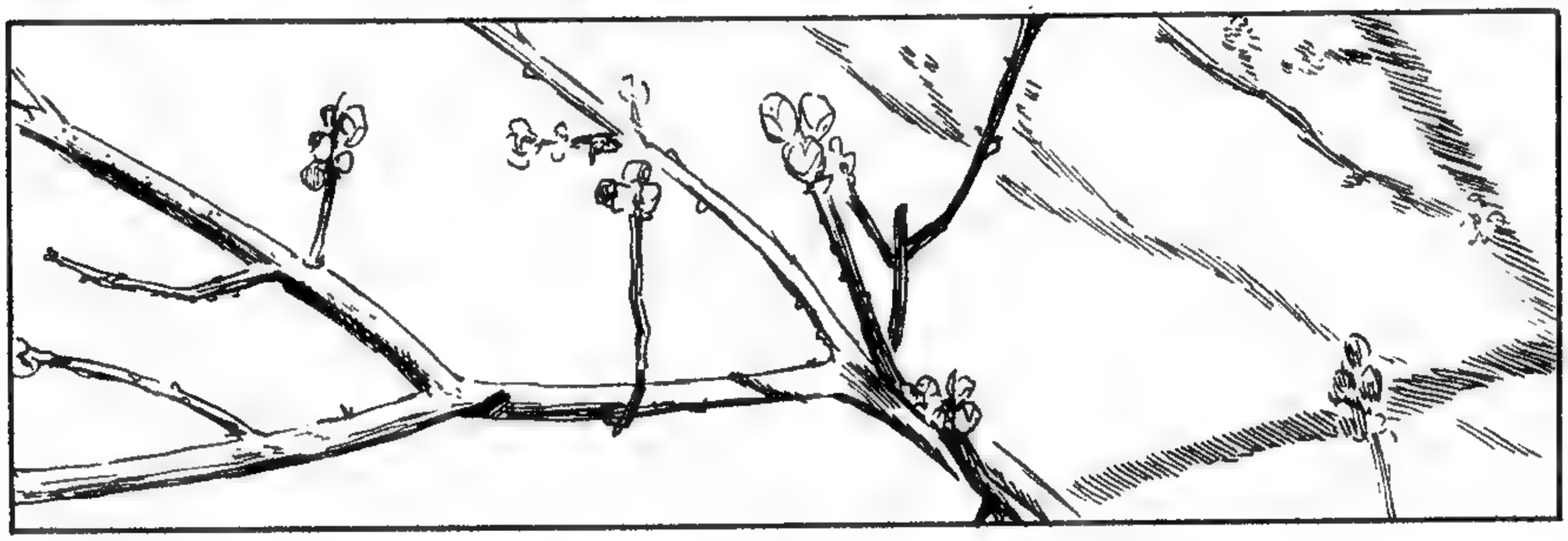




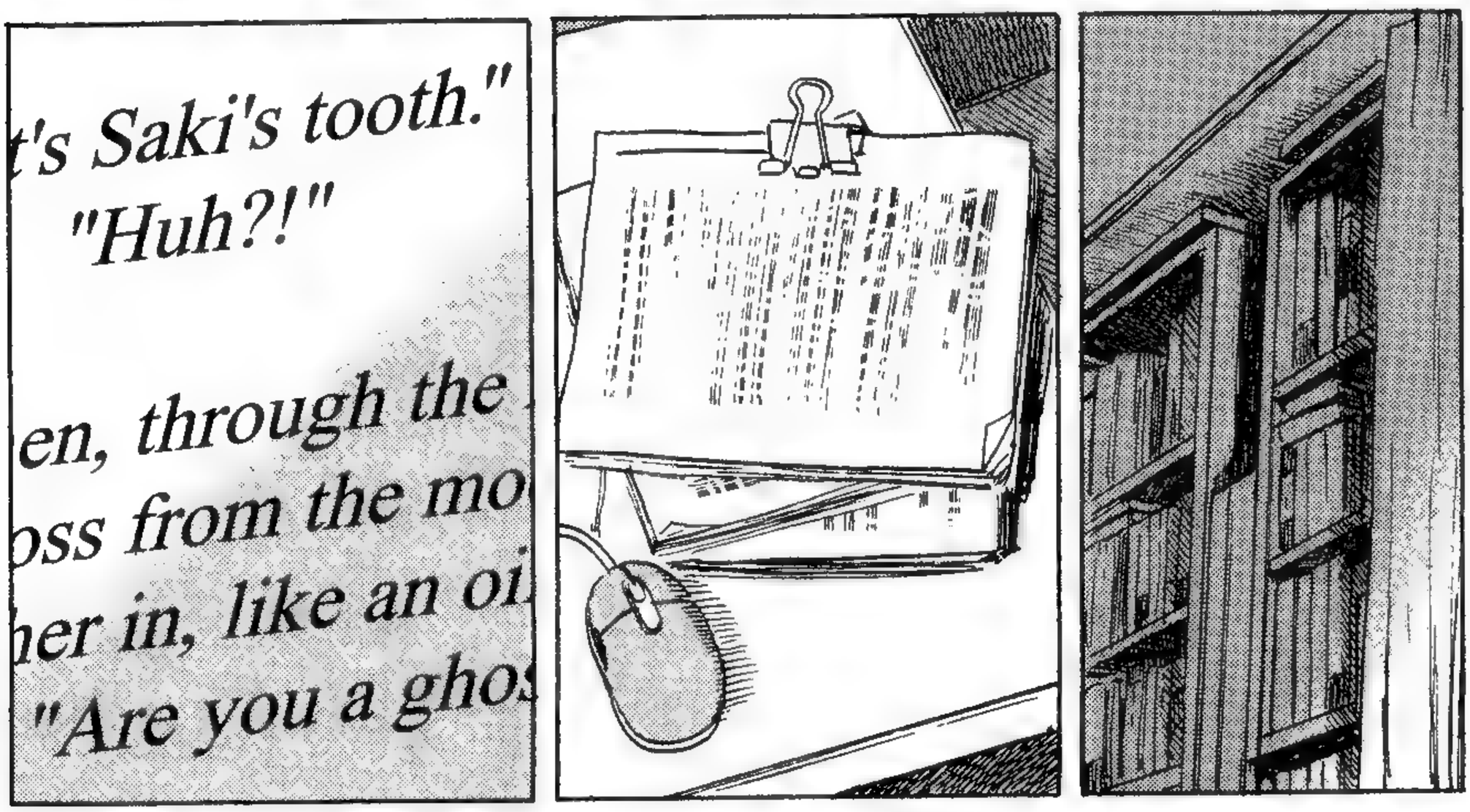


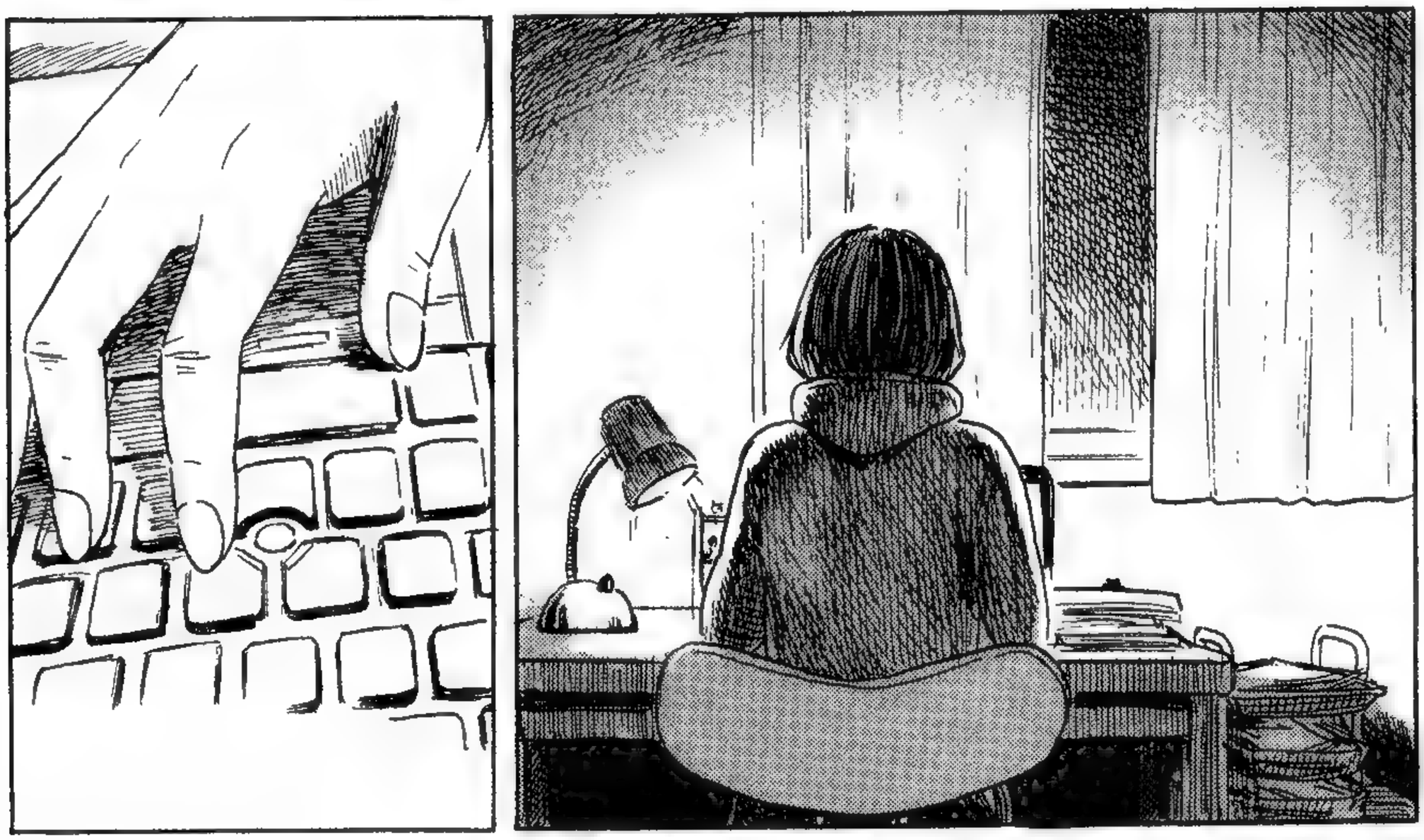


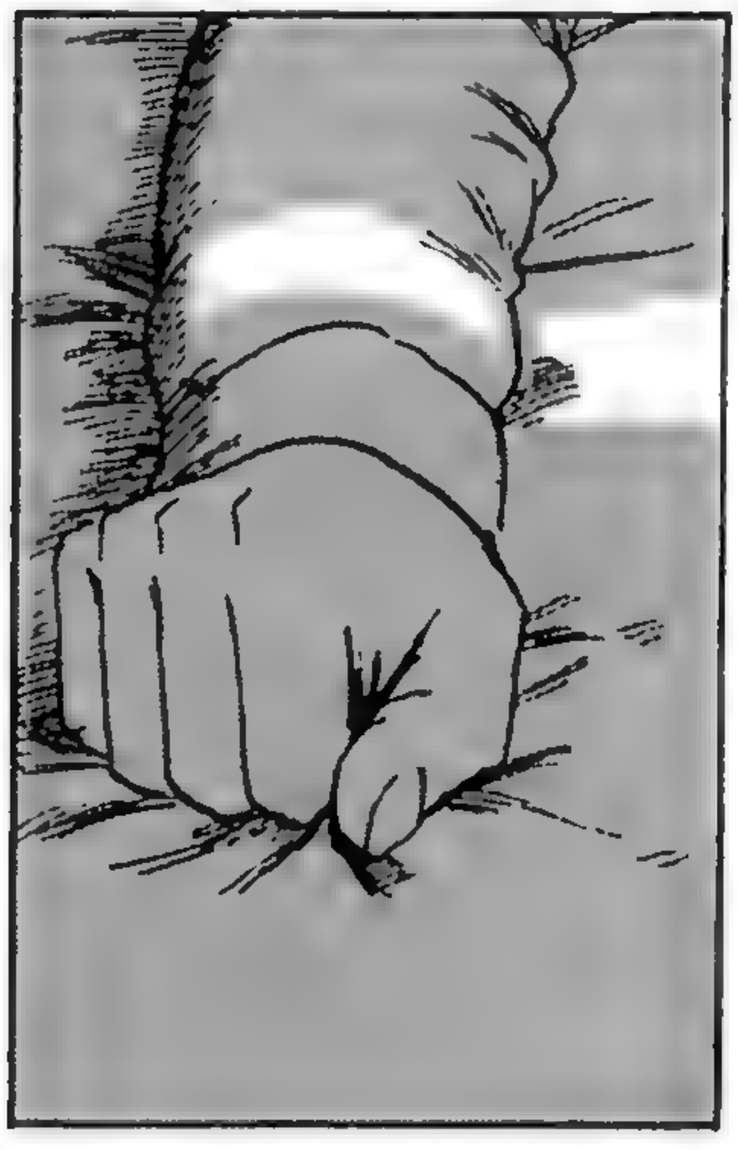


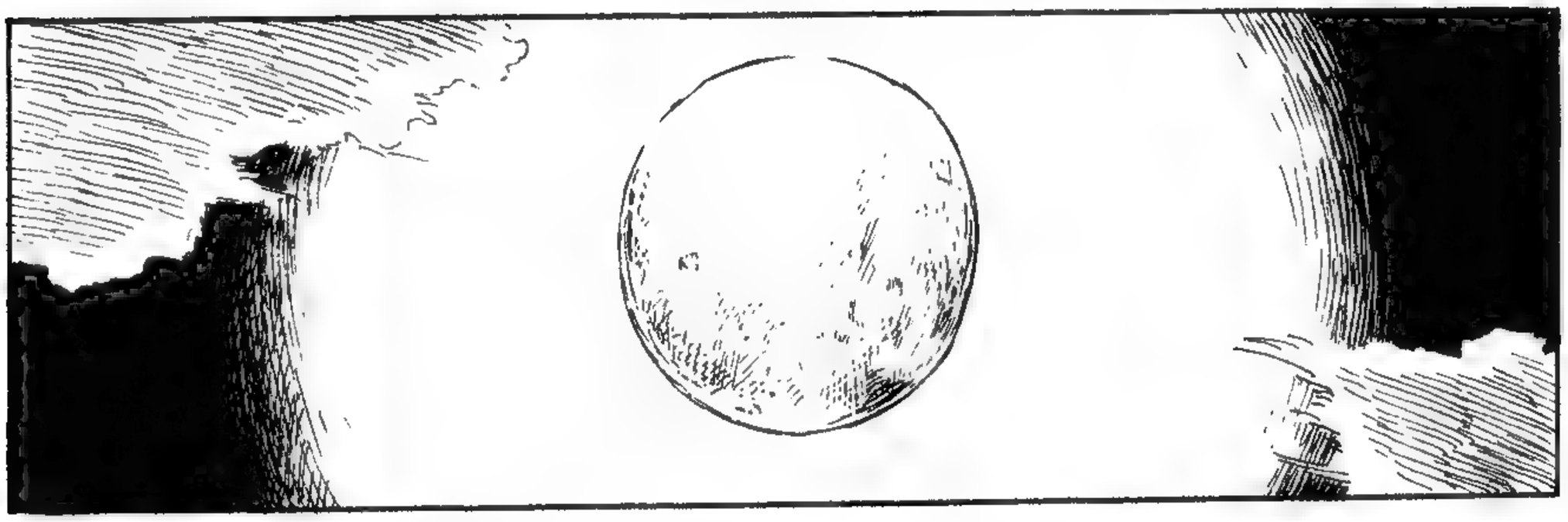


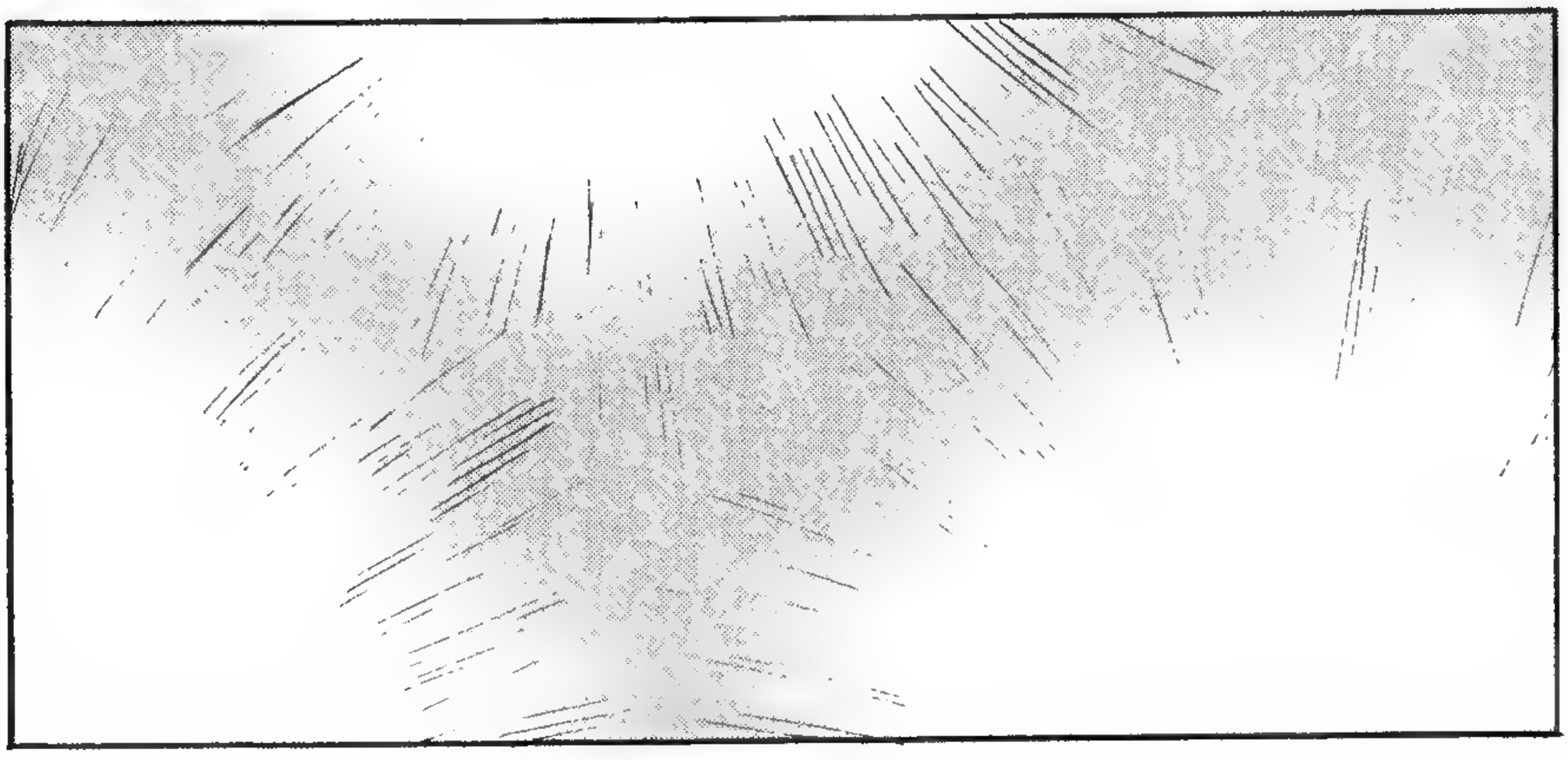
KARAOKE

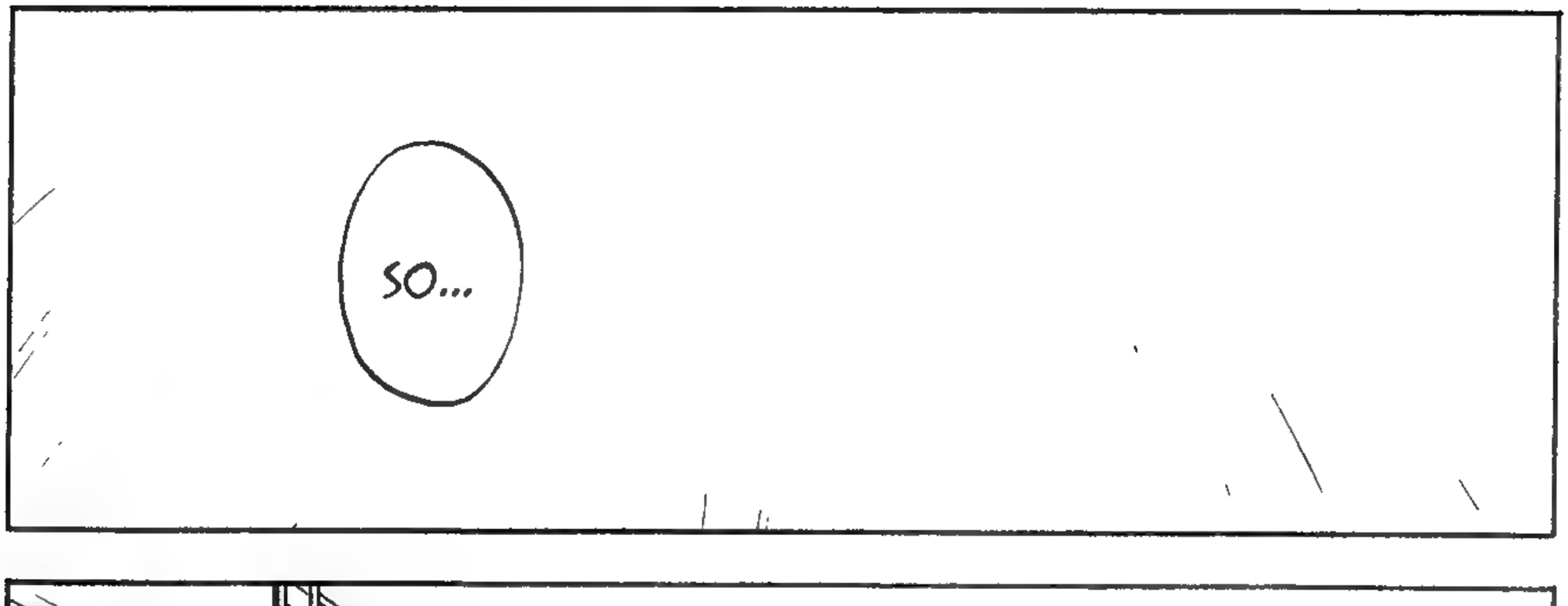

t's Saki's tooth."
"Huh?!"
en, through the
oss from the mo
her in, like an oi
"Are you a ghos

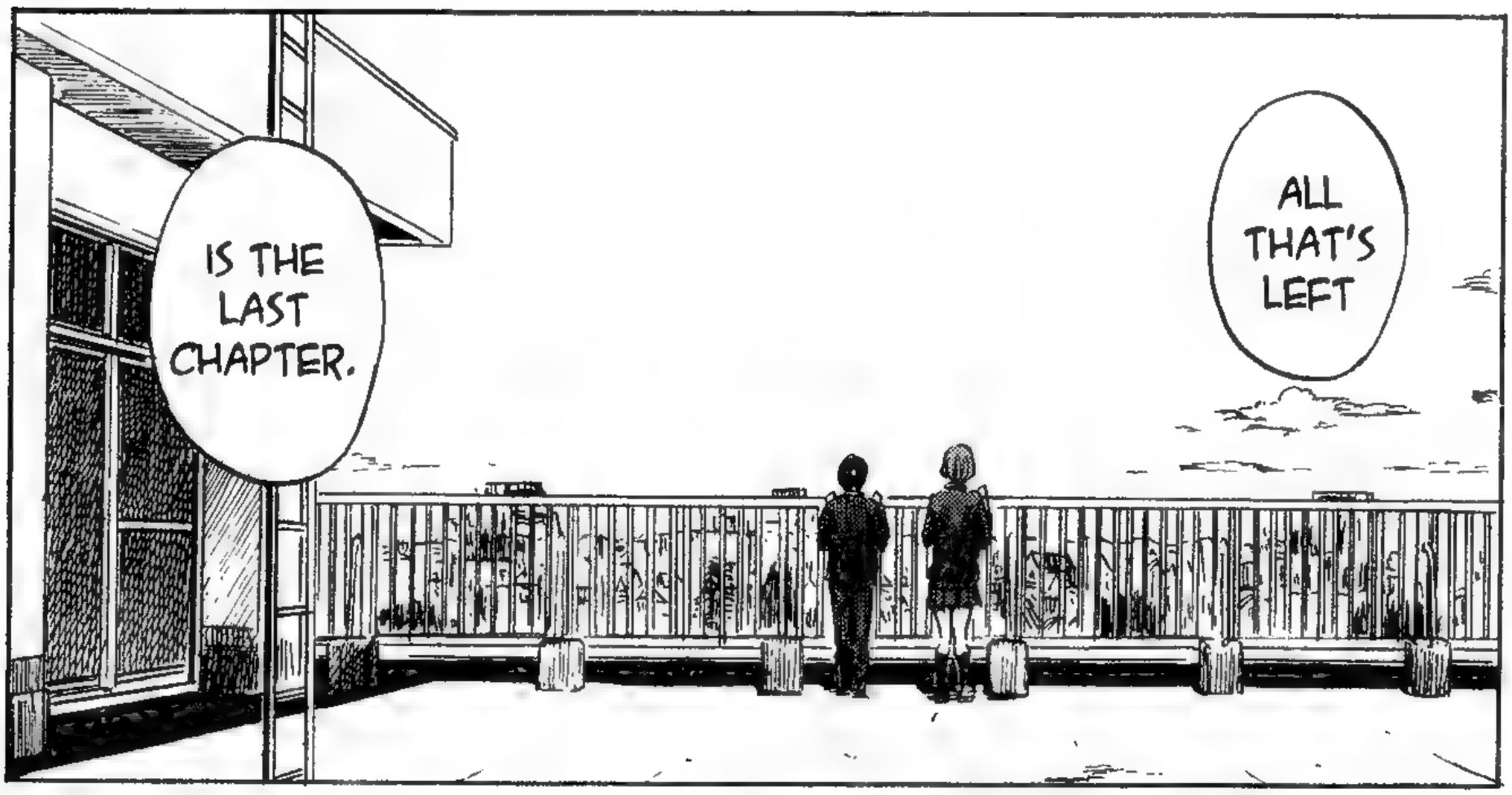









SO...


IS THE LAST CHAPTER.
ALL THAT'S LEFT

THE GHOST KILLINGS.
ONCE THAT'S FINISHED, IT'LL BE BASICALLY DONE.

YOU ENDED UP

WRITING THE WHOLE THING ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT SHOWING ME.

YEAH.

WILL YOU READ IT

WHEN IT'S DONE?

OF COURSE I'LL READ IT.

OF COURSE!

YEAH.

FEELS LIKE IT WENT BY SO FAST.

WHEW...

SO ENDS OUR 2ND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.

MM...

NOT REALLY, NO...

HEY.

YOU'RE GOING TO COLLEGE, RIGHT, KASUGA?

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHERE TO APPLY?

HAVE YOU DECIDED YET?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

OH.

I WANNA MAJOR IN LIT-ERATURE AND STUDY WHAT I LOVE.

I... WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE IN TOKYO.

YEAH...

KASU-GA,

HOW ABOUT YOU? WANNA BECOME A LIT MAJOR TOO?

WELL, I THINK YOU SHOULD DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, KASUGA...

BUT I'D BE HAPPY IF WE... WENT TO THE SAME COLLEGE.

YOU MEAN IT?

DO THINK ABOUT IT, ALL RIGHT?

MM... YEAH.

THAT'D BE NICE.

WANT TO GO SOME-WHERE?

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE IT EASY AGAIN FOR A WHILE.

AT ANY RATE, SPRING BREAK'S COMING UP SOON.

HMM, WELL...

WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO?

WE TOTALLY SHOULD!

YEAH, WHY NOT.

OH?

WHERE?

ACTU-ALLY,

I HAVE A PLACE IN MIND.

THE TOWN WHERE YOU WERE BORN.

HOW ABOUT IT?

I'D ALSO LOVE TO SEE THE PLACE WHERE YOU GREW UP.

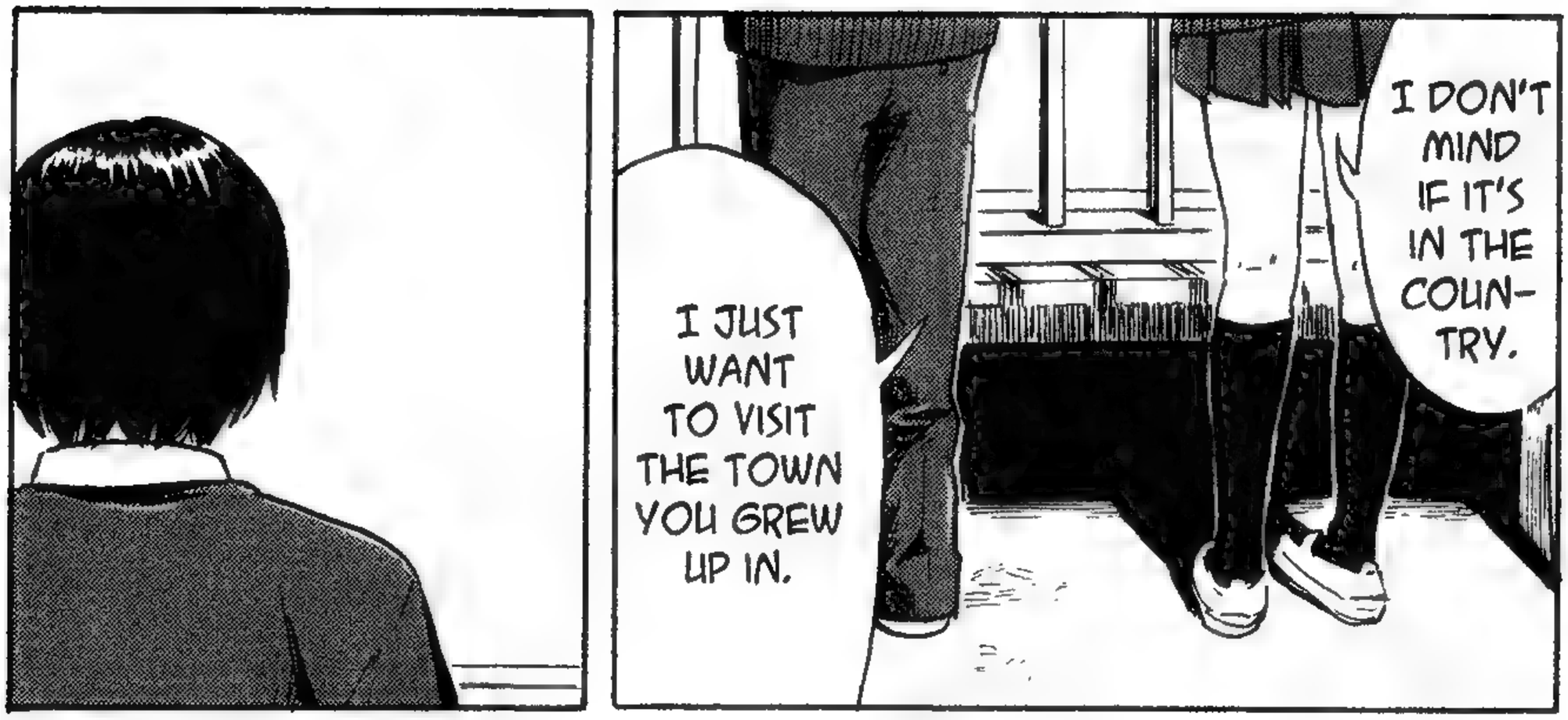
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO GUNMA.

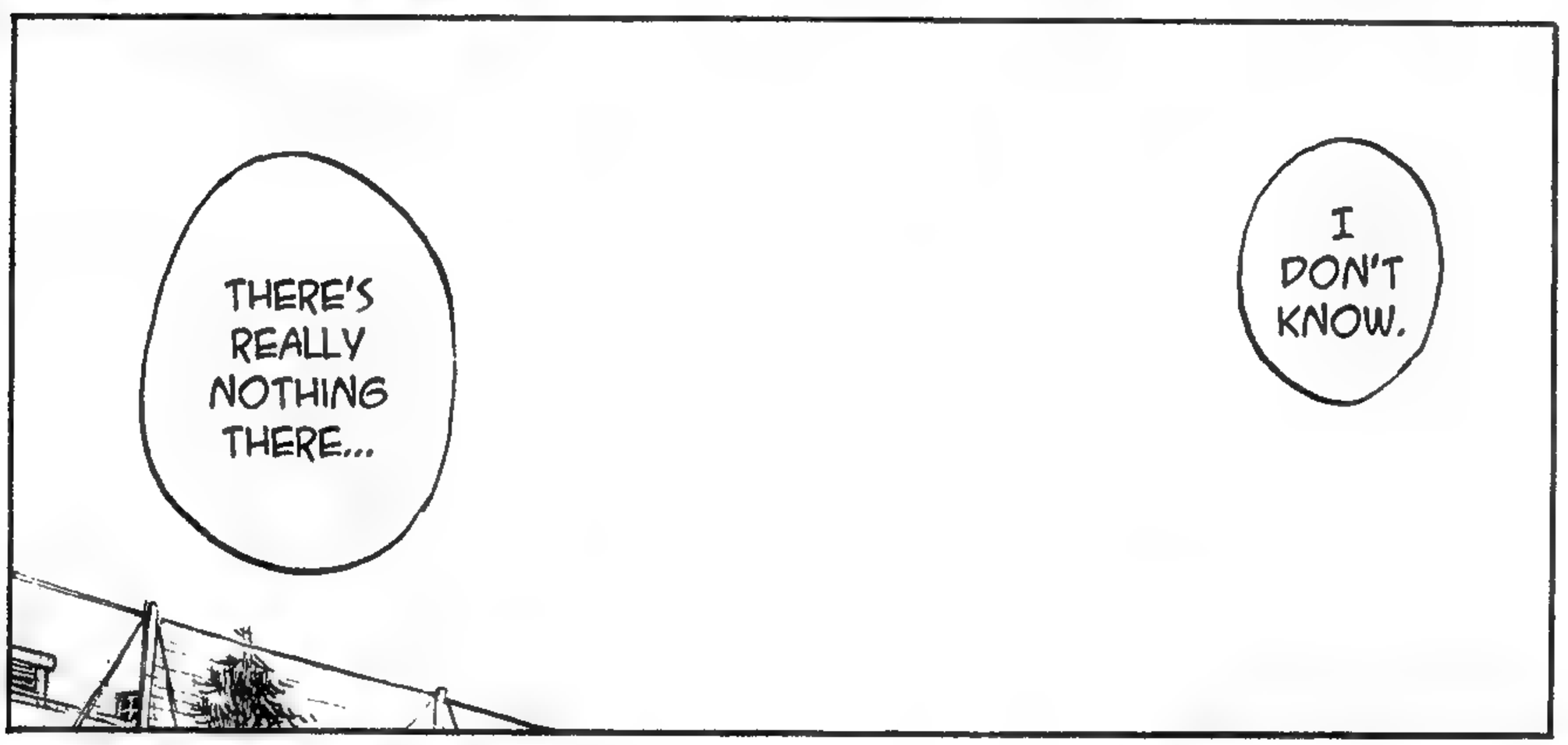
IT'D BE REALLY BORING.

THERE'S SERIOUSLY NOTHING THERE... IT'S JUST A BORING COUNTRY TOWN.

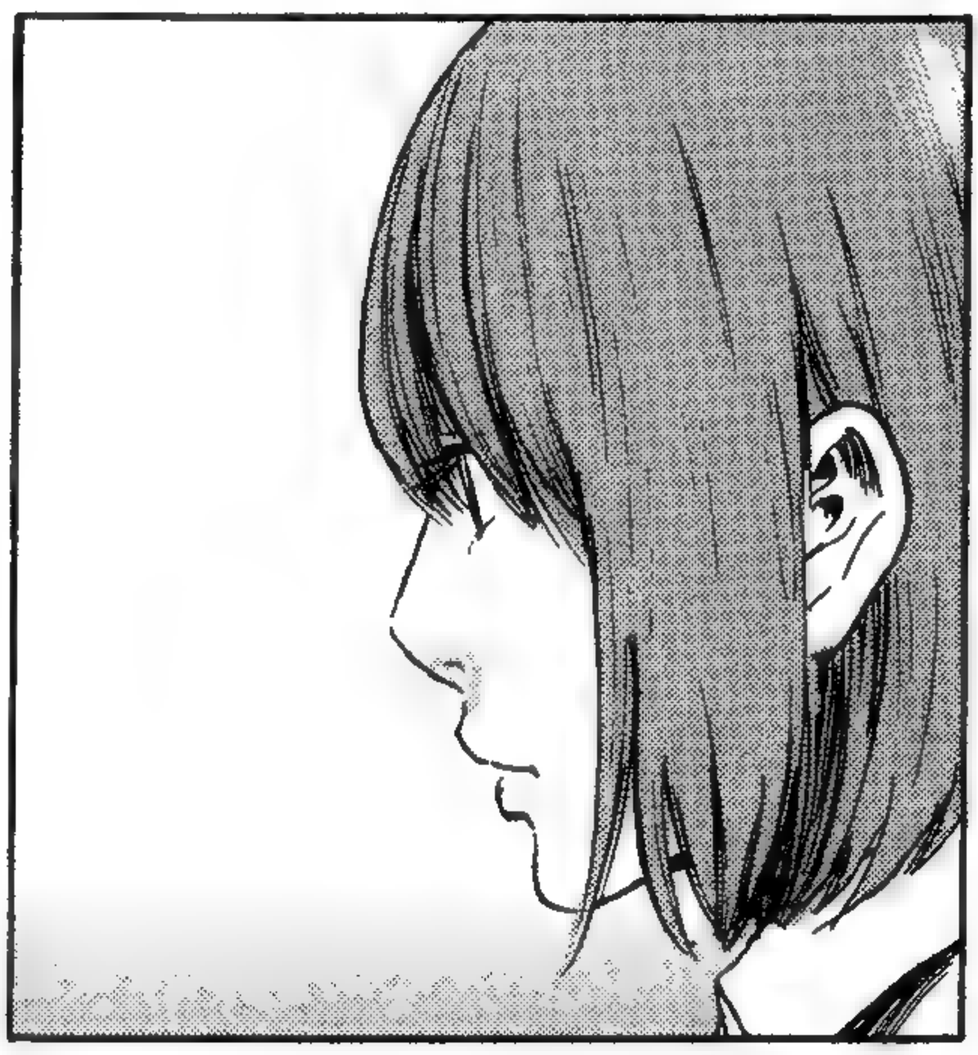
...NAH.

WE BETTER NOT.


I JUST WANT TO VISIT THE TOWN YOU GREW UP IN.
I DON'T MIND IF IT'S IN THE COUN-TRY.


THERE'S REALLY NOTHING THERE...
I DON'T KNOW.

HEY, KASUGA.



WHAT WAS IT?

WHEN YOU WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I MEAN.

I'VE WONDERED ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE.

SOME-THING HAPPENED, DIDN'T IT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

IT'S JUST THAT THERE'S NO NEED TO.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO...

WELL, THEN WHY NOT GO?

HUH.

IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL.

I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU ANY EXTRA TROUBLE.

I'M SORRY.

NAH ...

キーン DING
コーン DONG

キーン DING
コーン DONG

THAT WAS THE BELL. LET'S GET BACK.

SOME-WHERE ELSE, THEN.

THINK ABOUT IT!

FINE, FINE.

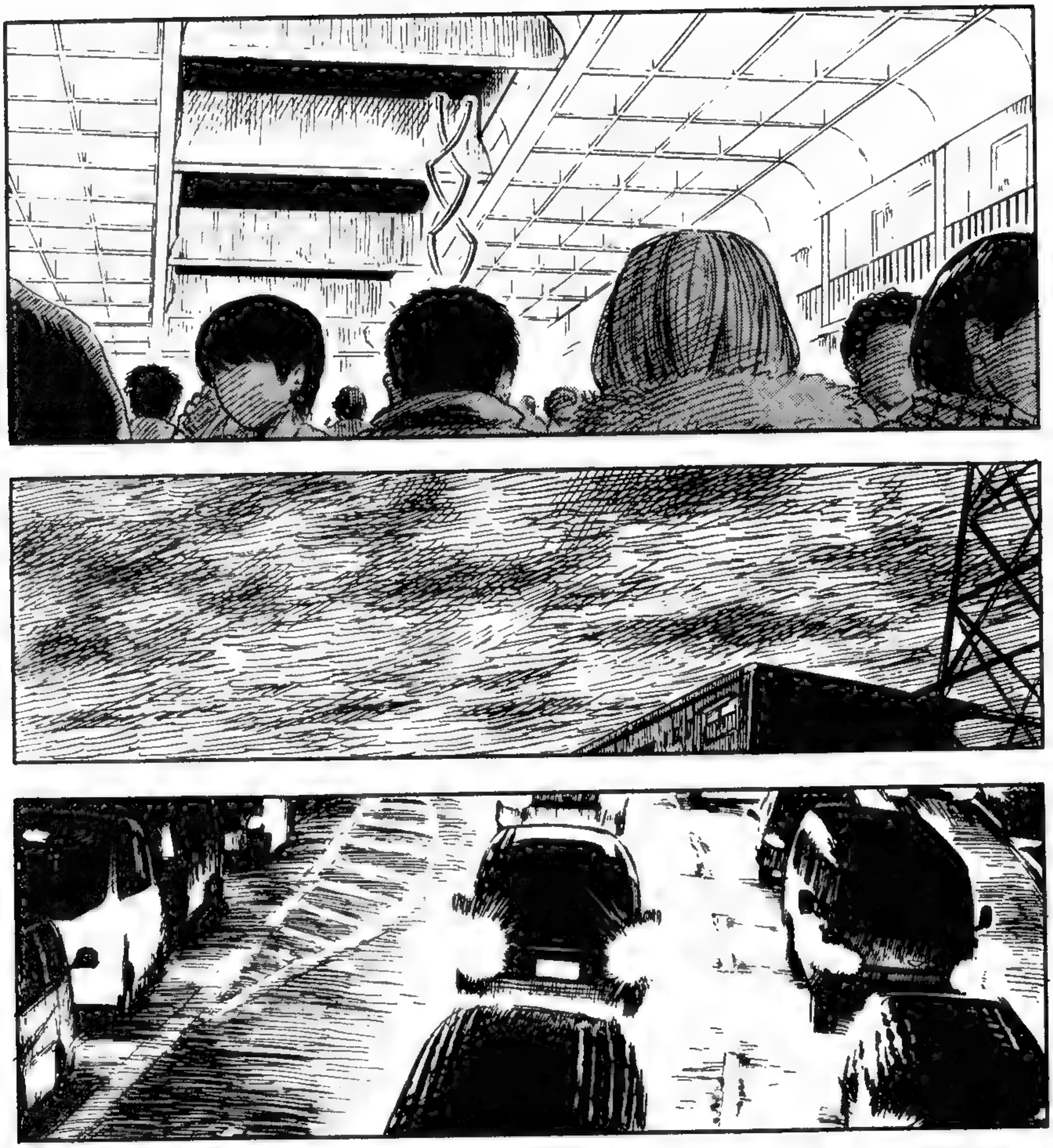
TOKIWA.

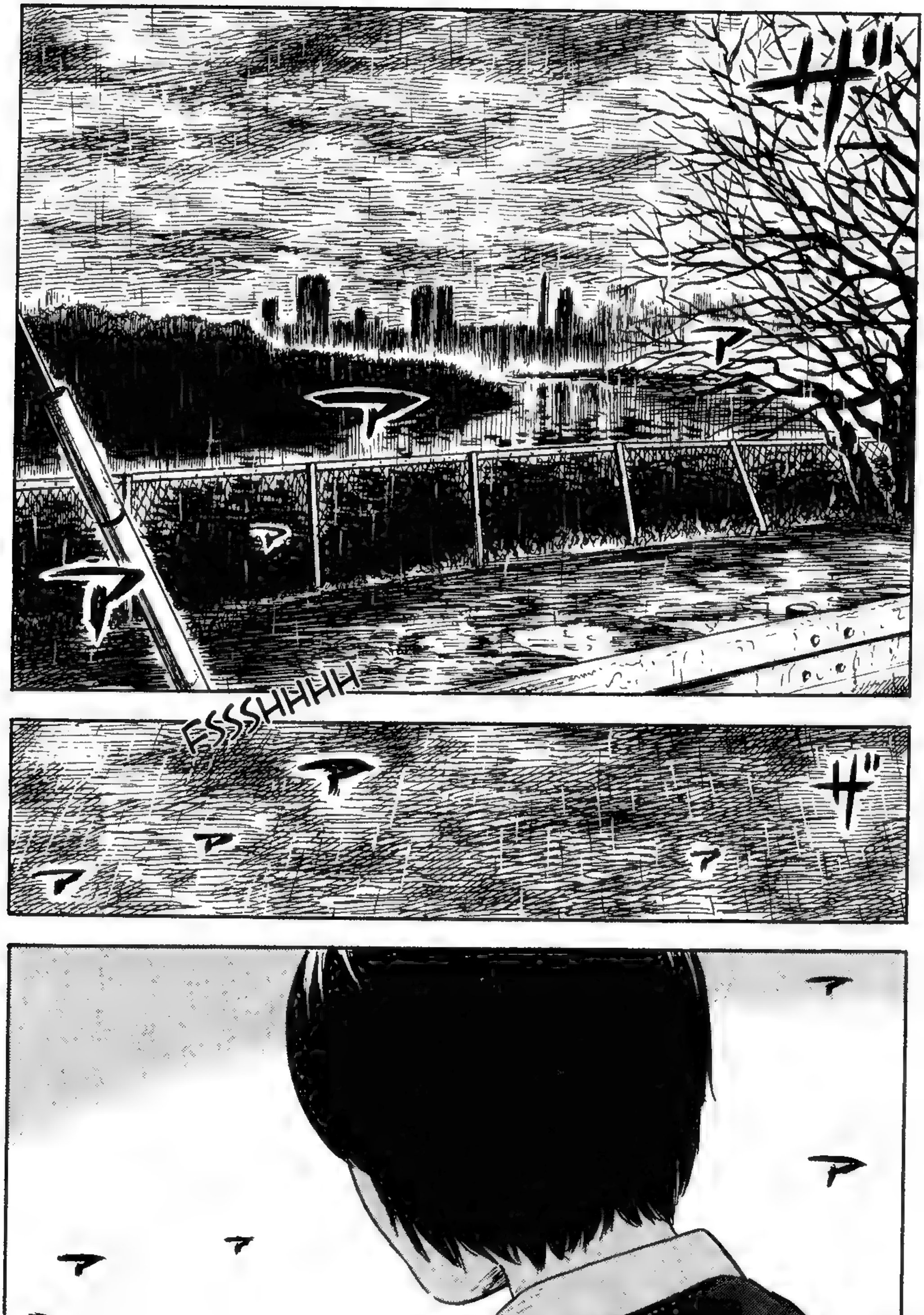
SO... PLEASE DON'T WORRY.

I SWEAR.

I'LL NEVER, EVER BETRAY YOU,

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?




FSSSHHHH

FSSHHH

FSSHHH

DINNER!

TAKAO!

COMING.

HEY, MOM.

HM?

IT'LL BE FUN. WE HAVEN'T IN SO LONG.

NOPE. WASTE OF MONEY.

WANNA EAT OUT THIS SUNDAY?

SOME-WHERE NICE.

HUH ?

OH, SURE.

WE'LL BRING TAKAO, TOO.

YES ?

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ?

WHAT'S WRONG, TAKAO ?

mm
...

NO, NOT REALLY. I'M FINE.

AH.

PRRRRING

PRRRRING

PRRRRING

I'LL GET IT.

ピッ

HELLO, KASUGA RESIDENCE.

FSSHHH

PRRRING

PRRRING

YES... WHAT 2!

REALLY, IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME!

WHA?

OH.

I'LL GIVE HIM THE PHONE!

THAT'S... MY GOOD-NESS.

IT'S YOUR SISTER, IN GUNMA.

SHE SAYS YOUR FATHER COLLAPSED.

YUP.

YUP.

HELLO ?

YUP ...

YUP.

I SEE.

YUP.

DAD ...

P-P

ピ-

ナ"

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ア

FSSHHH

THIS COULD BE THE END.

HE COLLAPSED ALL OF A SUDDEN ...

THEY TOOK HIM AWAY IN AN AMBU-LANCE.

NO ...

I'LL COME, TOO.

NO, UH... DON'T BOTHER.

I'LL GO... TOMOR-ROW.

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO. SORRY.

FSSHHH

IT'S FINE, DAD.

TAKAO ...

I'LL COME TOO.

SWISH

YES ...

IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE YEARS.

BUT ...

TAKING YOU BACK TO THAT TOWN...

MOM.

DAD.

BUT THE SCAR WON'T GO AWAY, EVER.

MY... WOUND MIGHT HEAL,

I'M GONNA HAVE TO FACE THIS.

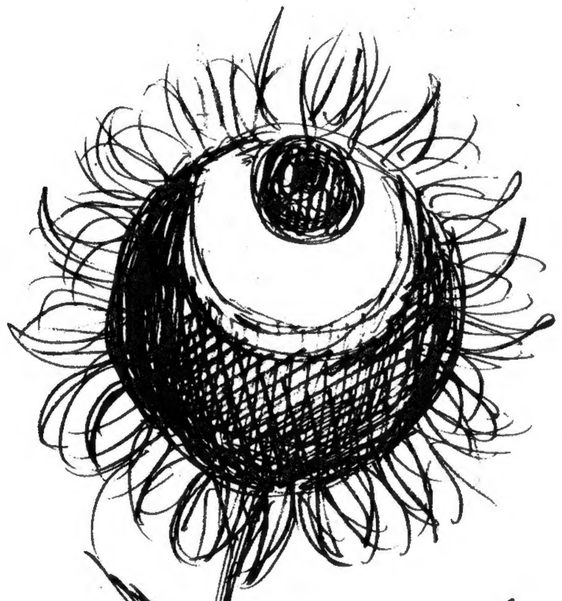
SOME-WHERE, SOME-TIME,

FSSHHH

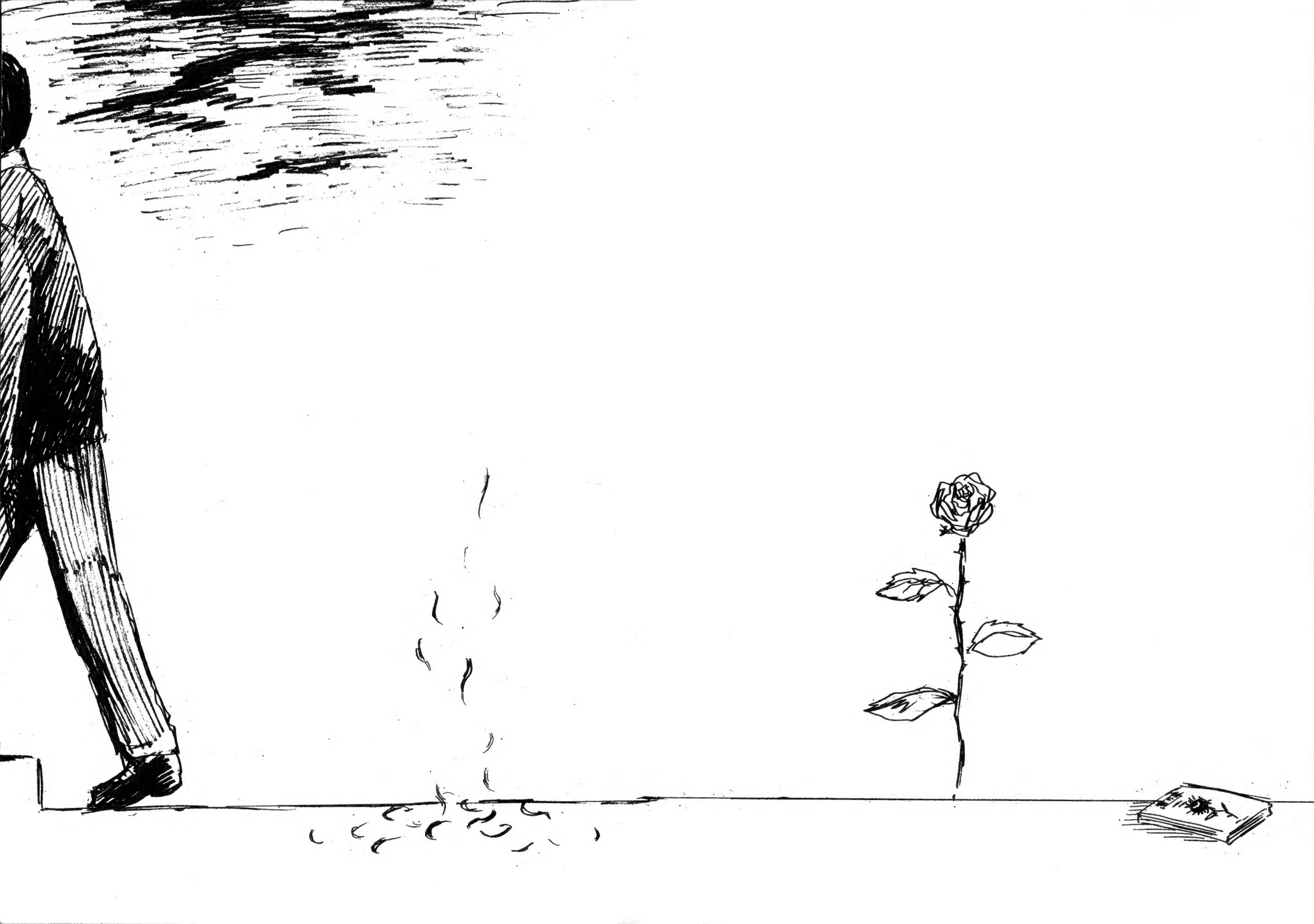
I'LL COME.

SO...

Continued in volume 10



Sæða



The Flowers of Evil

EDITED BY TYPE IT UP
SCANNED BY KICKTHEKITTY